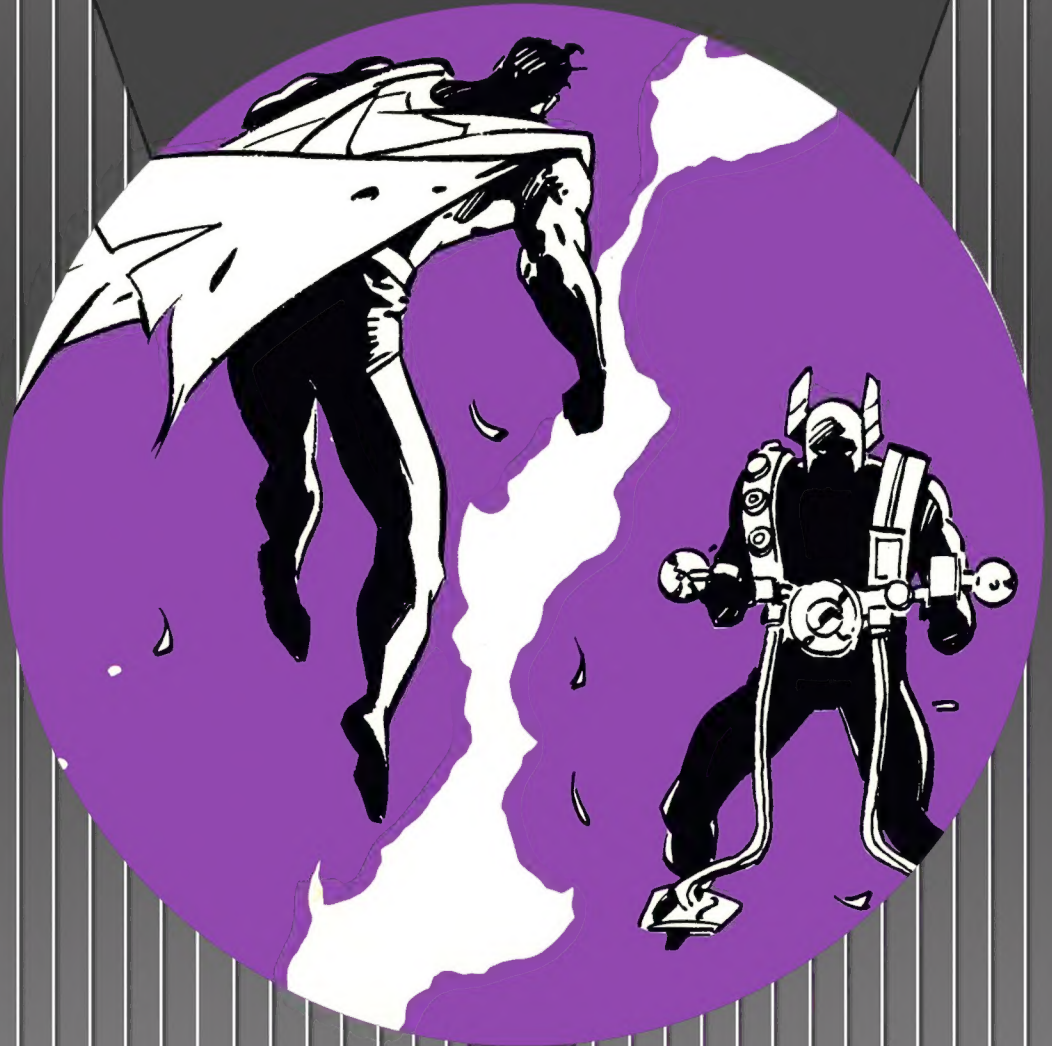


SUPERMAN

Post-**CRISIS**
ON INFINITE EARTHS

Volume 22:

Cosmic Odyssey



GOTHAM CITY, SIX MONTHS AGO.



THE EVENING CALM IS SHATTERED BY THE ARRIVAL OF ALIEN STORM TROOPERS.

WE MADE IT!
HAIL DARK-SEID!

QUICKLY, SET UP THE FORCE-FIELD GENERATOR!

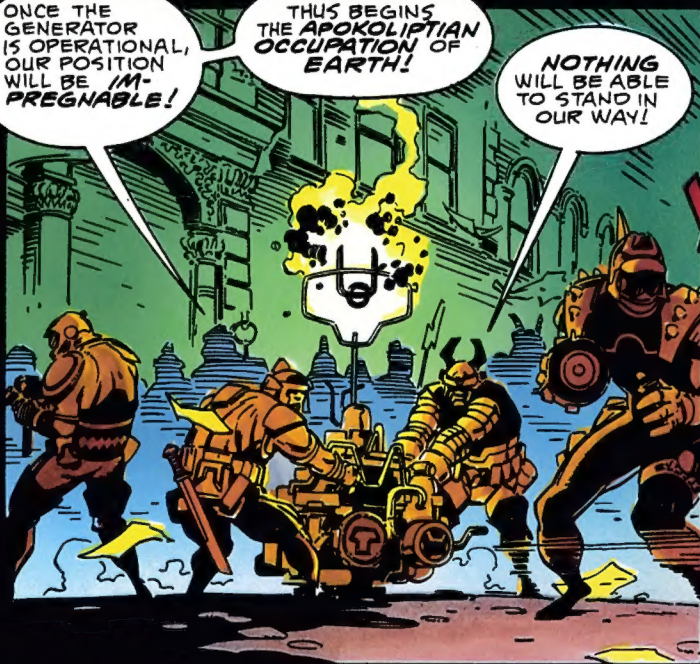


ONCE THE
GENERATOR
IS OPERATIONAL,
OUR POSITION
WILL BE *IM-
PREGNABLE!*

THUS BEGINS
THE *APOKOLIPTIAN*
OCCUPATION OF
EARTH!

NOTHING
WILL BE ABLE
TO STAND IN
OUR WAY!

I WOULDN'T
PLACE ANY *WAGERS*
ON THAT, MY
FRIEND.



WHO?!

*NEW
GENESIS
DOGS!!*

WRONG!
THIS *POOCH* COMES
FROM *KRYPTON*
AND HIS NAME IS
SUPERMAN!

YOU'VE GOT MY
PEDIGREE RIGHT,
THOUGH I PREFER TO
BE ADDRESSED AS
LIGHTRAY!

*KILL
THEM!!*





IT'S GOING TO TAKE **MORE** THAN YOU'VE GOT TO PULL OFF THAT STUNT, PAL.

DARKSEID MUST BE LOSING HIS TOUCH.

IMAGINE HIM SENDING SUCH **PITIFUL DOG SOLDIERS** ON AN IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT AS THIS.



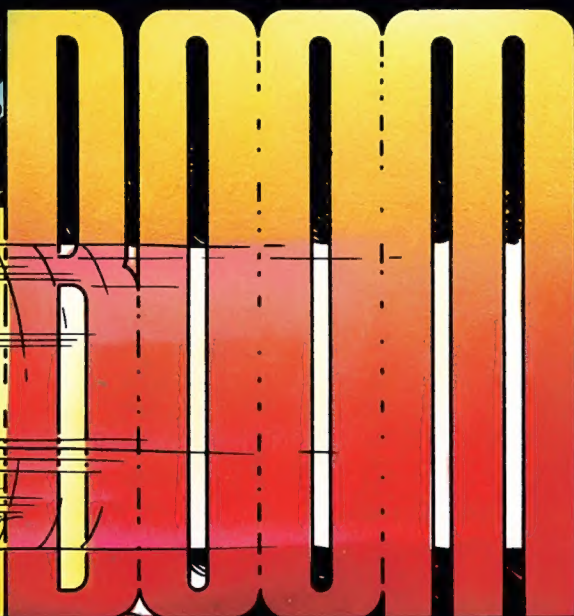
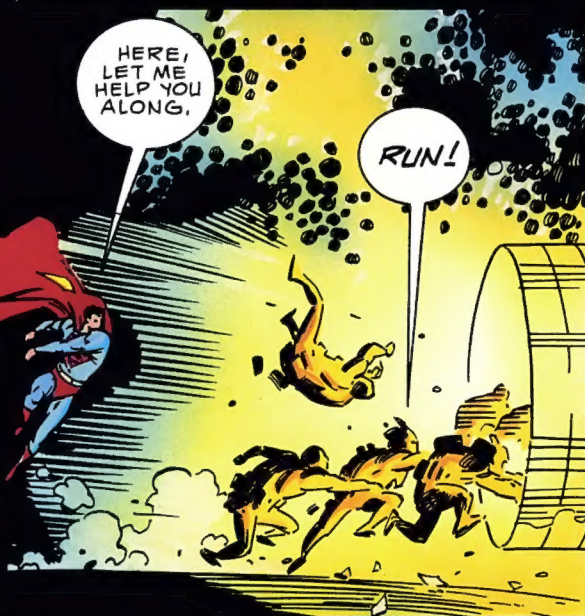
I GUESS **THE MAN** DIDN'T EXPECT TO RUN INTO SUCH **TOUGH** OPPOSITION.

AND HE WOULDN'T HAVE IF YOU HADN'T **WARNED** ME OF THIS **INVASION**.



ALWAYS GLAD TO LEND A **HELPING HAND**, SUPER-MAN.

IT'S IN **NEW GENESIS'** INTEREST TO SEE THAT **APOKOLIPS** DOESN'T GAIN **NEW TERRITORIES** FOR ITS **DARK EMPIRE**.

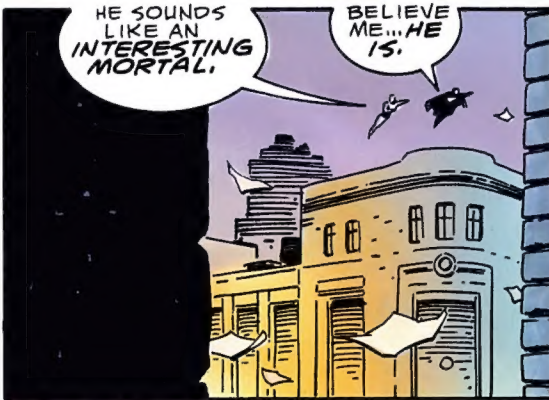




BUT THE
INTELLIGENCE
REPORTS
I'VE READ...

NEVER
MIND. I'LL
INTRODUCE
YOU TO
THE MAN
SOMEDAY.

YOU'LL
SEE...



HE SOUNDS
LIKE AN
INTERESTING
MORTAL!

BELIEVE
ME... HE
IS.



DARKSEID...



I HAVE BEEN LEFT
BEHIND... MAROONED
...THIS CAN'T BE...



I HAVE NO
MOTHER BOX
TO SUMMON A
BOOM TUBE,
TO GET BACK
TO APOKOLIPS!



I HAVE NO SUP-
PLIES, NO FOOD.
ONLY THE
WEAPONS I
CARRY AND A
NOW-USELESS
SHORT-RANGE
RADIO.

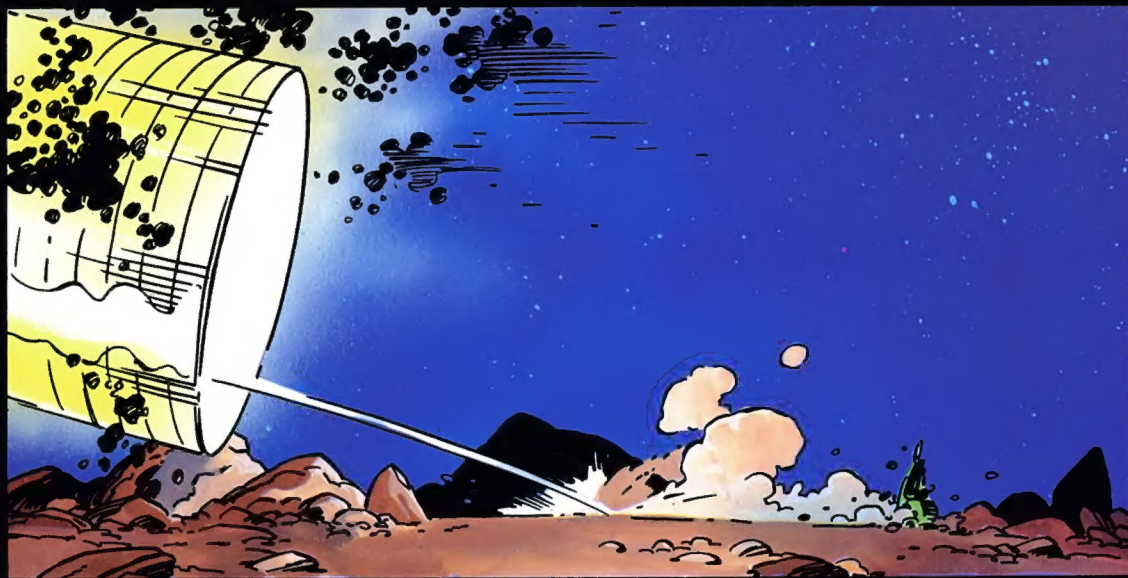
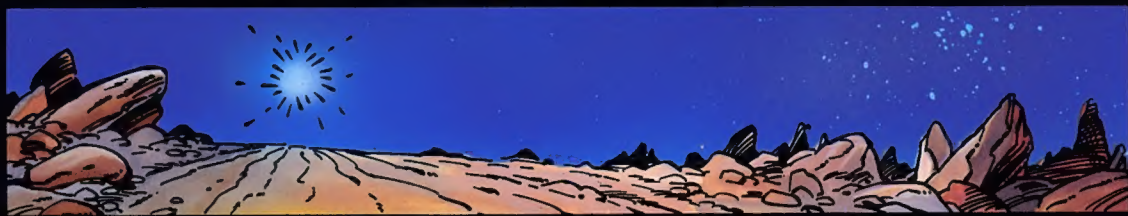


WHAT WILL
I LIVE ON?
HOW WILL I
SURVIVE?



OH,
PLEASE, GREAT
DARKSEID, HAVE
MERCY ON
ME!

A BARREN PLANETOID ON THE
RIM OF THE ALPHA CENTAURI
SOLAR SYSTEM, TWO WEEKS
AGO.

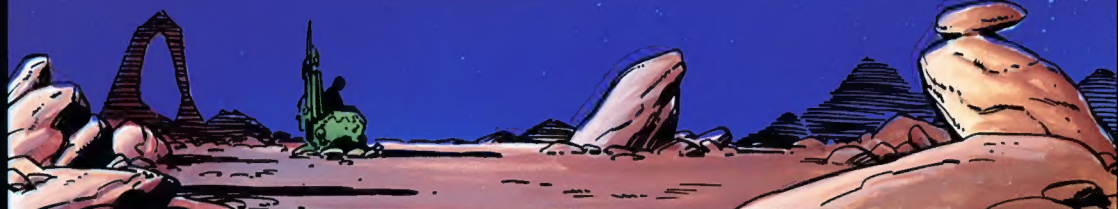


THEY CALL HIS ONCE-
WONDROUS VEHICLE
THE **MOBIUS CHAIR**.



HIS NAME IS
METRON.

HE IS NO LONGER THE
MAN HE ONCE WAS.



BUT HE AND HIS RUINED CRAFT
CONTAIN SECRETS I, GREAT
DARKSEID, CRAVE.

BE QUICK
ABOUT GATHERING
THE DATA, MY
TECHNO-
CHIEFS.

I HAVE
A STRANGE
SENSE OF
URGENCY
CONCERNING
THIS
MATTER.



I KNEW METRON WAS NEAR TO UNLOCKING THE SECRET OF THE EQUATION.

THAT IS WHY I MONITORED HIM.

DID HE SUCCEED? HIS TELEMETRY WILL TELL THE STORY.



I'VE TRANSFERRED THE MOTHER BOX'S RECORDS TO TAPE.

BIO-SCANS COMPLETED, SIR.

ALL TRACE RADIATIONS AND FORENSICS RECORDED AND BEING ANALYZED.

MOLECULAR SCAN COMPLETE. THAT'S IT, SIR.



WHAT SHALL WE DO ABOUT HIM, SIR?

BRING HIM ALONG.



MY GUESS IS THAT EVEN AFTER I COLLABATE HIS DATA, THERE WILL REMAIN MYSTERIES.

PERHAPS THE FINAL ANSWERS WILL HAVE TO BE WRENCHED FROM METRON'S SHATTERED MIND.

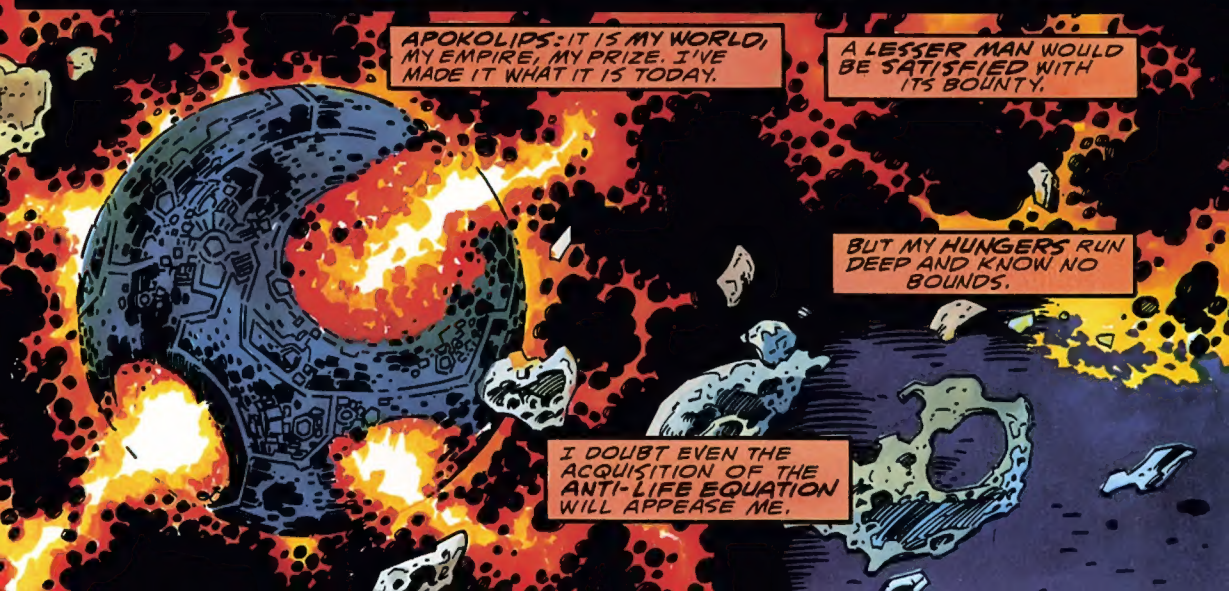


APOKOLIPS: IT IS MY WORLD, MY EMPIRE, MY PRIZE. I'VE MADE IT WHAT IT IS TODAY.

A LESSER MAN WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH ITS BOUNTY.

BUT MY HUNGERS RUN DEEP AND KNOW NO BOUNDS.

I DOUBT EVEN THE ACQUISITION OF THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION WILL APPEASE ME.



I THOUGHT
REDISCOVERING
THIS LOST
SECRET WOULD
ANSWER ALL MY
PRAYERS.

NO LONGER WOULD I BE
LIMITED TO RULING ONE
SINGULAR WORLD. ALL THAT
LAY UNDER THE STARS
WOULD BE MINE.

BUT METRON'S FINDINGS,
WHICH I'VE POURED OVER
FOR THE LAST WEEK, HAVE PUT
AN END TO THAT DREAM.
I NOW FACE A MENACE BE-
YOND MY POWER TO
CONFRONT.

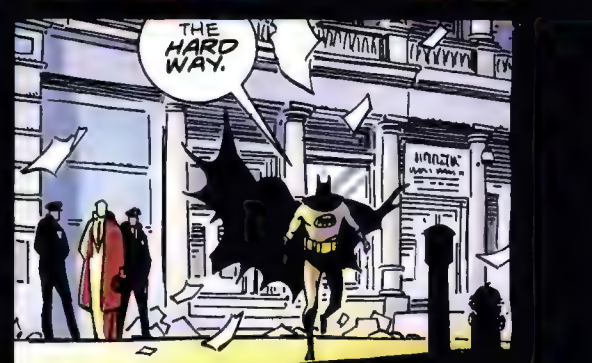
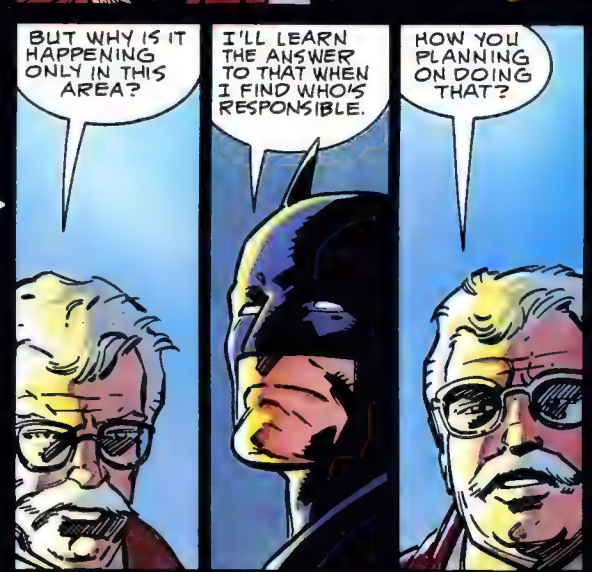
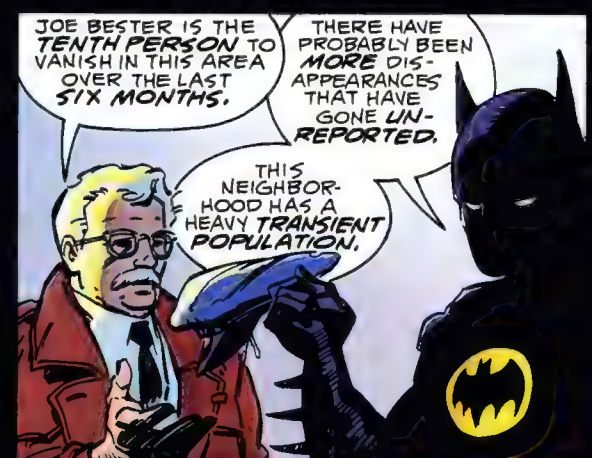
FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN AGES,
DARKEID THE
SCHEMER NEEDS
HELP.



WORSE YET, THE AID I
MUST HAVE LIES BEYOND
THE BOUNDARIES OF
MY REALM. I AM
FORCED TO SEEK IT IN
THE CAMP OF MY
ENEMIES.



THE POWERFUL
DEVIANTS AND
MONSTERS I
HAVE SURROUNDED
MYSELF WITH WILL
BE OF NO HELP IN
THIS STRUGGLE.
WHAT I NEED NOW
ARE HEROES.



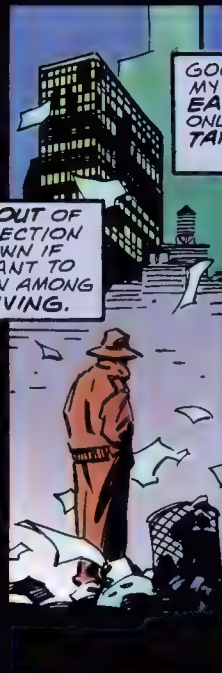


I ALWAYS HATE
PLAYING THE PART
OF **BAIT**.

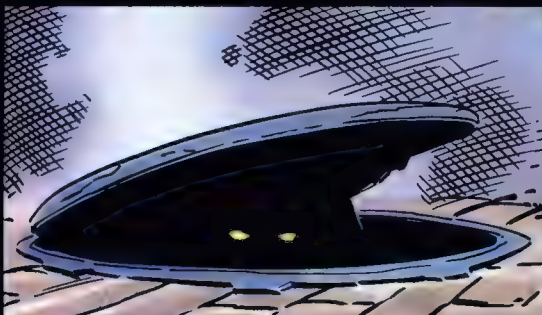


THE STREETS
ARE DESERTED.
GUESS THE
WORD'S GOTTEN
AROUND.

STAY OUT OF
THIS SECTION
OF TOWN IF
YOU WANT TO
REMAIN AMONG
THE LIVING.



GOOD. IT'LL MAKE
MY JOB THAT MUCH
EASIER IF I'M THE
ONLY **POTENTIAL**
TARGET ON THE
STREETS.



THE MANHOLE! OF
COURSE! NO WONDER
THE POLICE HAVE NO
LEADS ON THESE
ABDUCTIONS.

THE DISAPPEARANCES
AREN'T OCCURRING ON
THE STREETS. IT'S ALL
HAPPENING **BELOW**
THE STREETS!



BUT WHOSE GAME
IS THIS? **CROC**?
NO, HE'S STILL IN
LOCK-UP.

THOUGHT THE
RAT-CATCHER
WAS IN THERE
WITH HIM.

GUESS THERE'S
ONLY ONE WAY TO
FIND OUT.

READY OR
NOT... HERE
I COME!

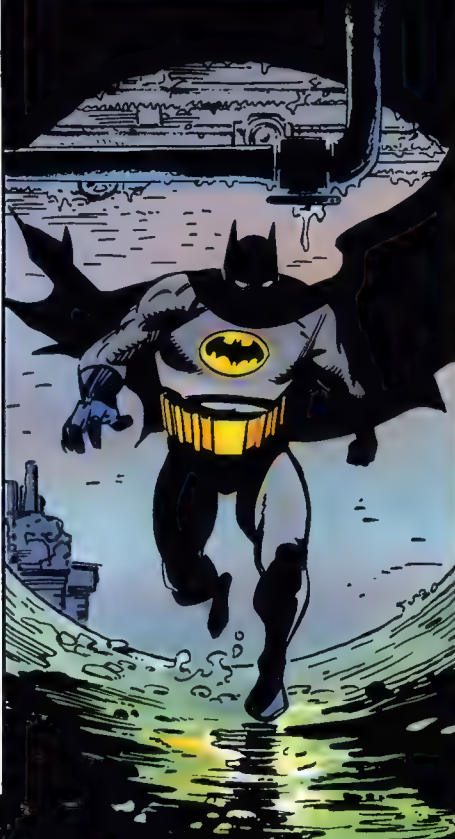


GOTHAM CITY
SEWER
569

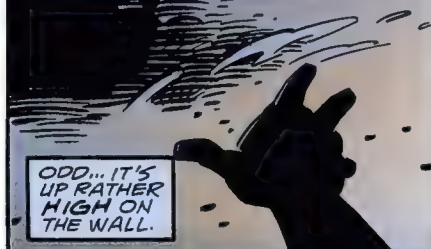
NOTHING.

WHOEVER OR WHAT-
EVER WAS HERE HAS
BEAT A HASTY RE-
TREAT.

FORTUNATELY, NO ONE
PASSES THROUGH AN
AREA WITHOUT LEAVING
THEIR MARK.



SUCH AS A SCRAPE
ON AN OLD FLAG-
STONE.



ODD... IT'S
UP RATHER
HIGH ON
THE WALL.

EUREKA! FOOT-
PRINTS IN THE
SILT BUILDUP
ON THE FLOOR.

BUT...

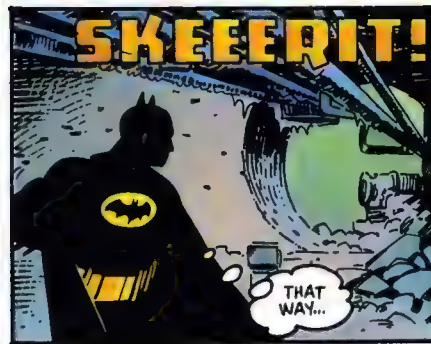


LOOK AT THE SIZE OF
THOSE IMPRESSIONS!

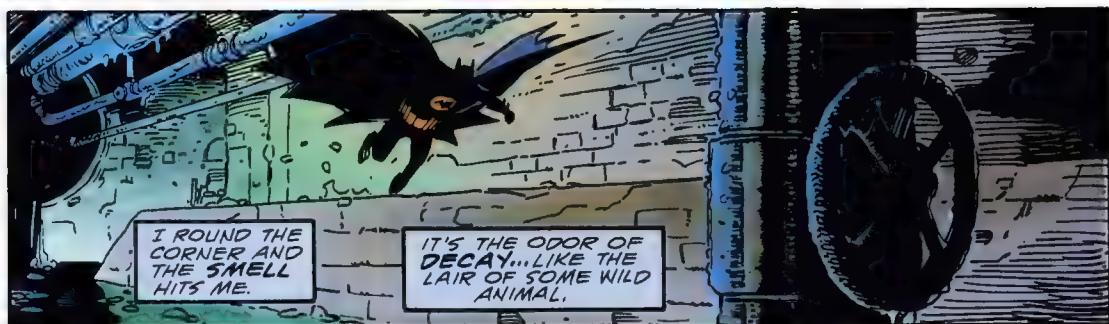
MY PREY
MUST BE A
GIANT!



SKEERIT!



THAT
WAY...



I ROUND THE
CORNER AND
THE SMELL
HITS ME.

IT'S THE ODOR OF
DECAY... LIKE THE
LAIR OF SOME WILD
ANIMAL.



I'VE
FOUND
IT.



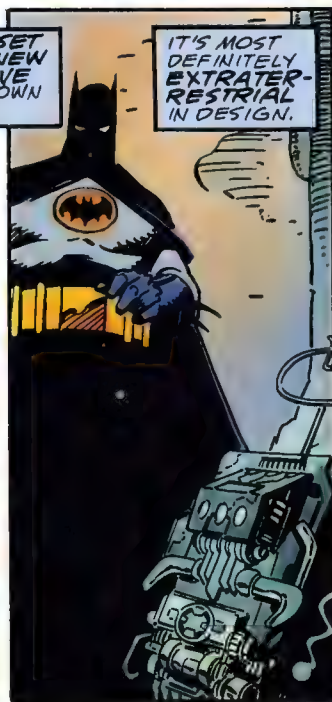
MY QUARRY'S
HIDEOUT.



IT'S NOT AT ALL WHAT
I'D EXPECTED.



THE JURY-
RIGGED
CHAIR CON-
FIRMS MY
SUSPICIONS
ABOUT MY
ADVERSARY'S
SIZE.



THE RADIO SET
GIVES ME A NEW
PERSPECTIVE
ON MY UNKNOWN
FOE.

IT'S MOST
DEFINITELY
EXTRATER-
RESTRIAL
IN DESIGN.



BUT I FIND NOTHING TO ACCOUNT
FOR THE PUTRID SMELL THAT
PERMEATES THESE SURROUNDINGS.

IT'S A MEAT
LOCKER!

OH
MY
GOD...

THERE'S JOE
BESTER... AND
TWO OTHER
POOR SOULS
WHO JUST
HAPPENED TO
BE IN THE
WRONG SPOT
AT THE WRONG
TIME.

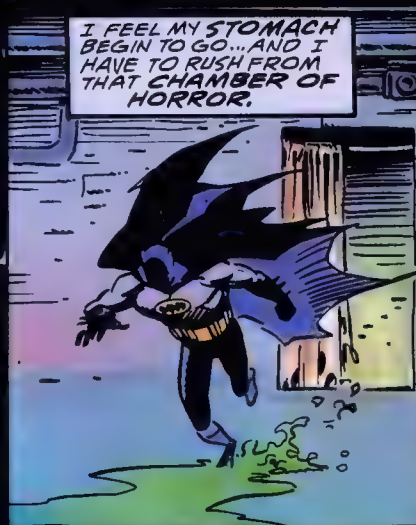
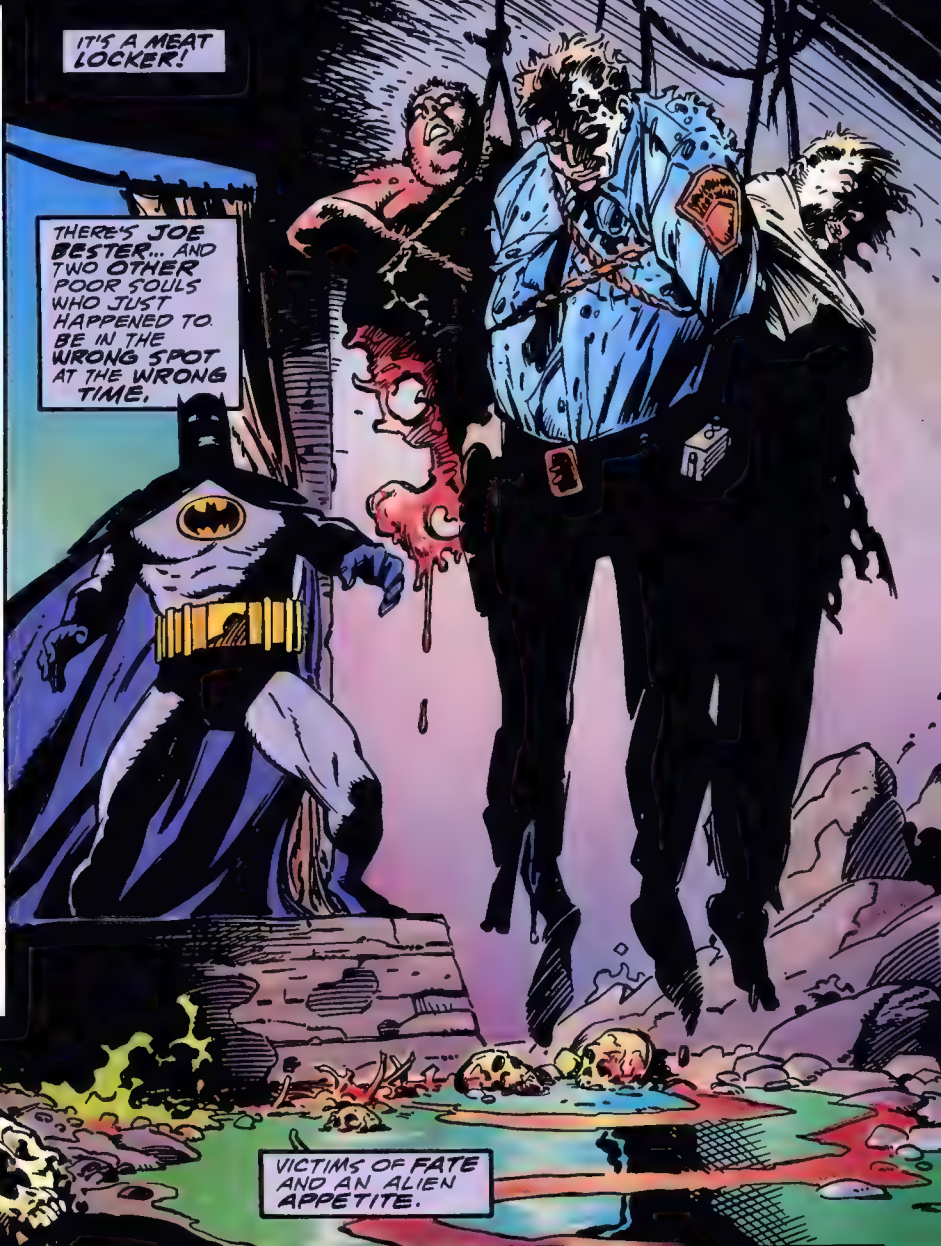
VICTIMS OF FATE
AND AN ALIEN
APPETITE.

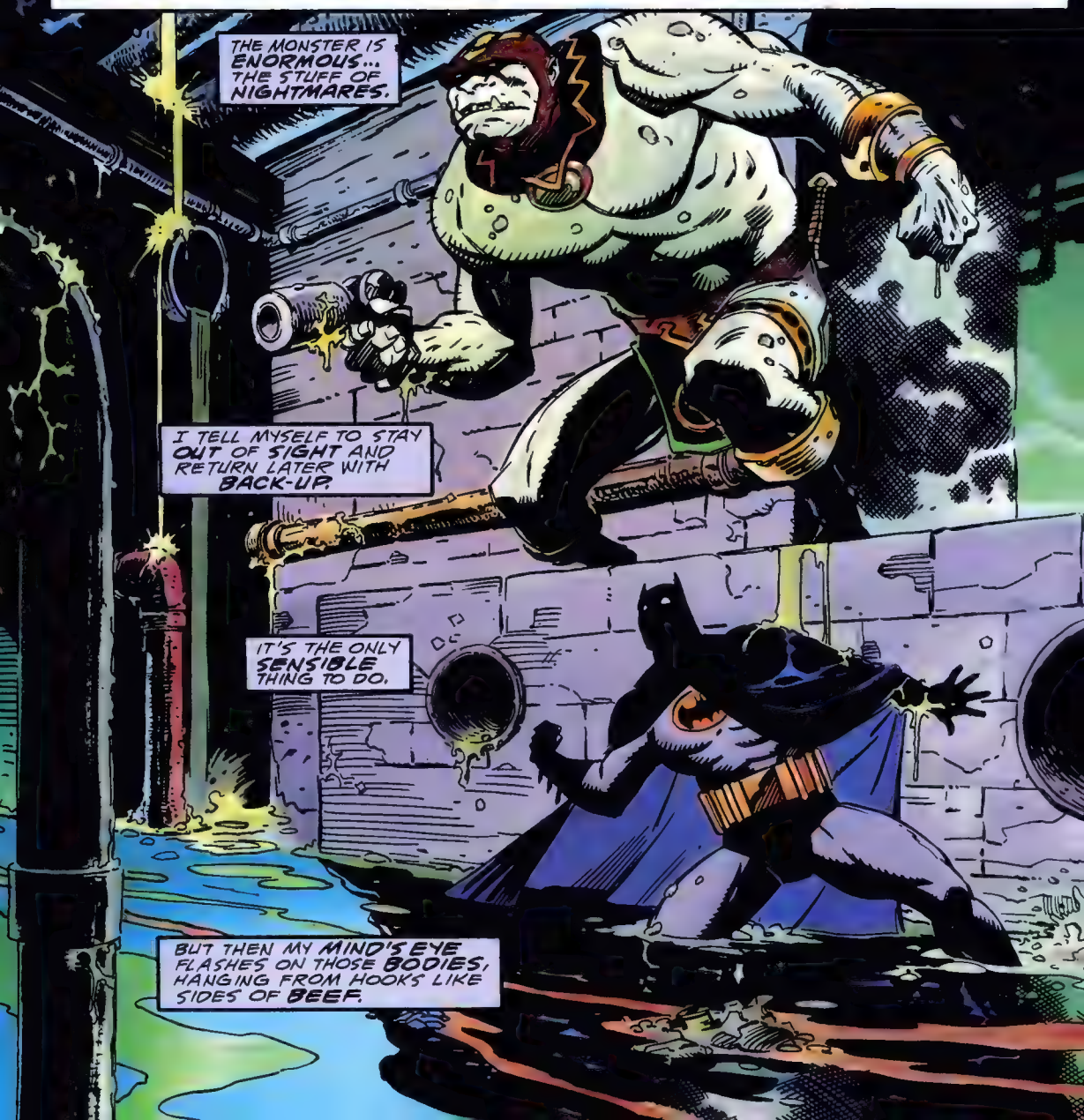
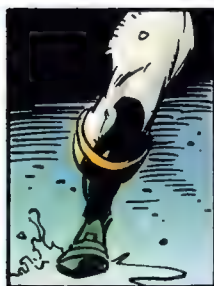
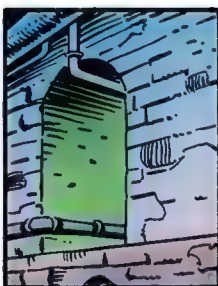
I FEEL MY STOMACH
BEGIN TO GO... AND I
HAVE TO RUSH FROM
THAT CHAMBER OF
HORROR.

NOW I KNOW
WHO I FACE...

...A CANNIBAL-
ISTIC ALIEN.

THIS THING WILL NOT
BE ALLOWED TO CON-
TINUE ITS VILE WAYS.





THE MONSTER IS
ENORMOUS...
THE STUFF OF
NIGHTMARES.

I TELL MYSELF TO STAY
OUT OF SIGHT AND
RETURN LATER WITH
BACK-UP.

IT'S THE ONLY
SENSIBLE
THING TO DO.

BUT THEN MY MIND'S EYE
FLASHES ON THOSE BODIES,
HANGING FROM HOOKS LIKE
SIDES OF BEEF.



I'M RIPPING INTO HIM
EVEN BEFORE I
REALIZE I'VE MADE
THE DECISION.



HE'S AMAZINGLY
QUICK FOR
SOMETHING
SO LARGE.



STRONGER THAN
HE LOOKS, ALSO.

ARRG
GHH!!

THAVNADACCK!



KER-RAAD MPTH!



KA-THOK!



BRADOKOOSH!



IN ORDER TO SURVIVE
IN MY LINE OF WORK,
YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW
WHEN YOU'RE **BEATEN**.

WHAT YOU DO THEN
IS **CHANGE YOUR
TACTICS**.



...ESPECIALLY
FIREARMS.



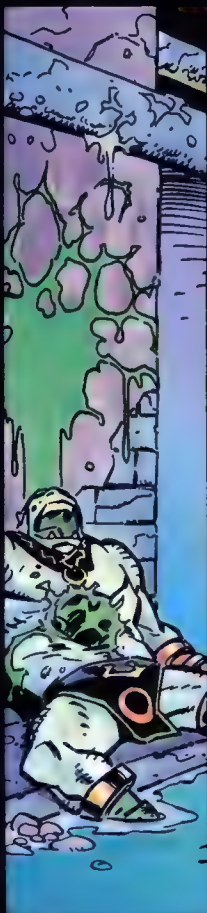
I NOR-
MALLY
DON'T
LIKE
USING
WEAPONS...

BUT I'M FLEX-
IBLE, ABLE TO
ADAPT TO THE
SITUATION.

**DROP
IT!**



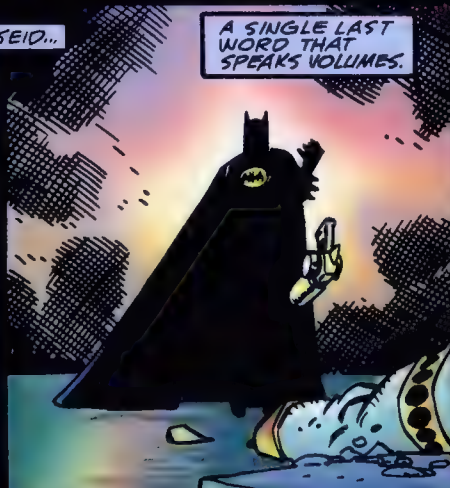
GUESS I'LL NEVER KNOW
IF HE UNDERSTOOD ENGLISH
OR NOT.



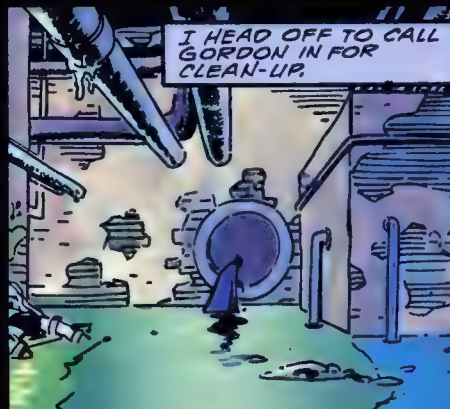
DARKSEID...



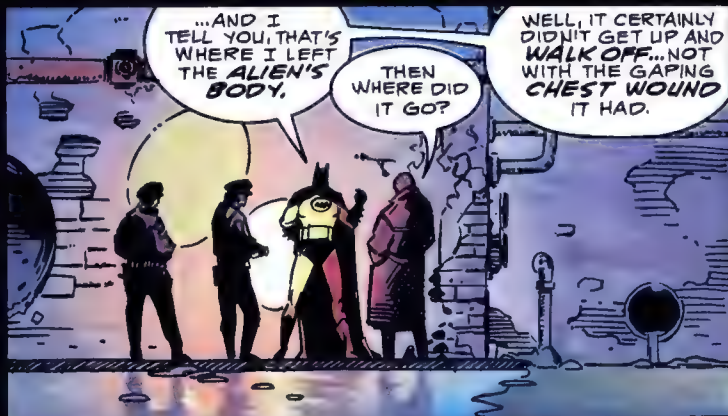
DARKSEID...

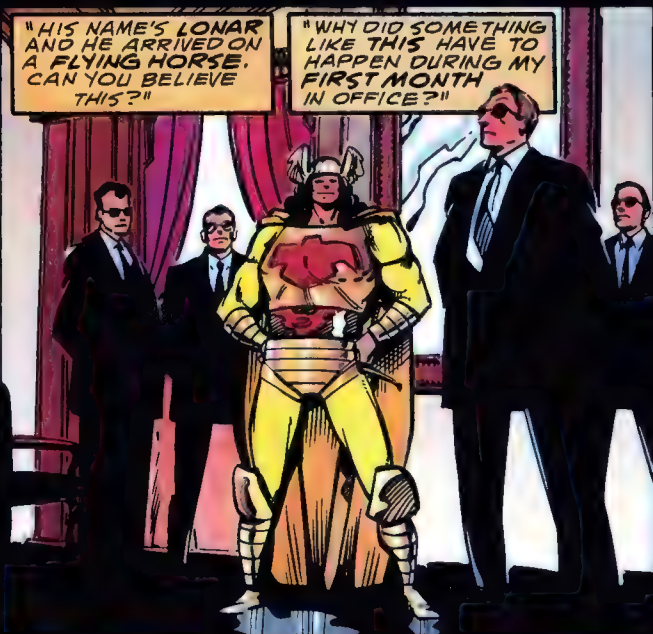


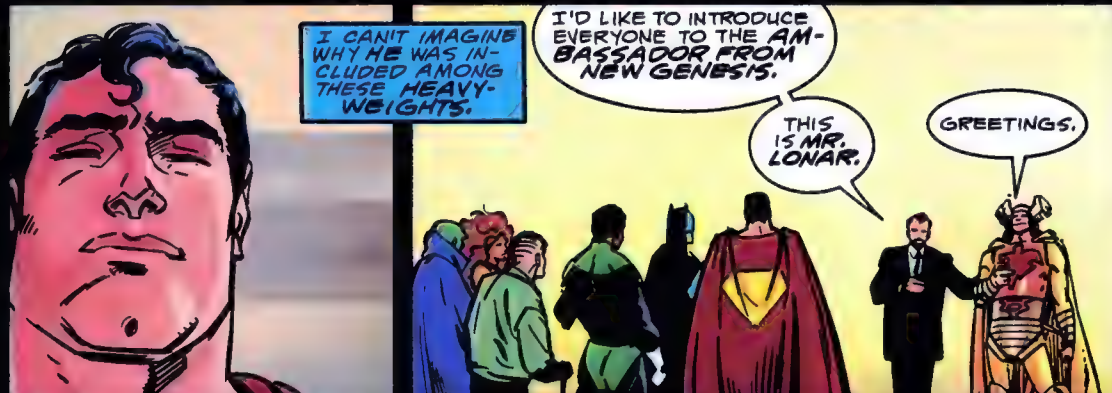
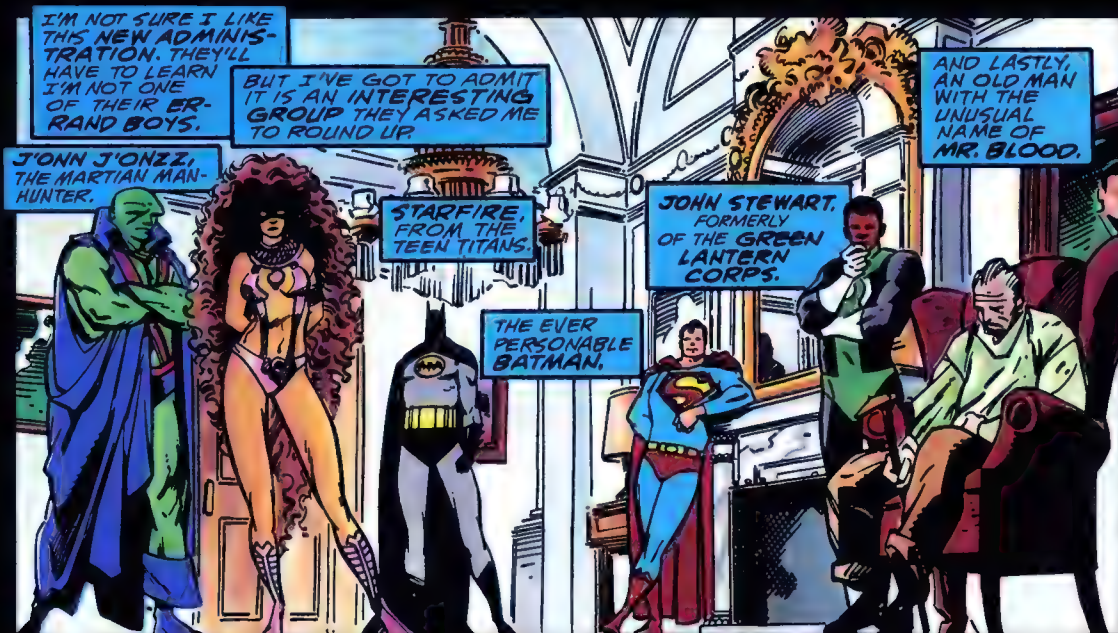
A SINGLE LAST
WORD THAT
SPEAKS VOLUMES.



I HEAD OFF TO CALL
GORDON IN FOR
CLEAN-UP.







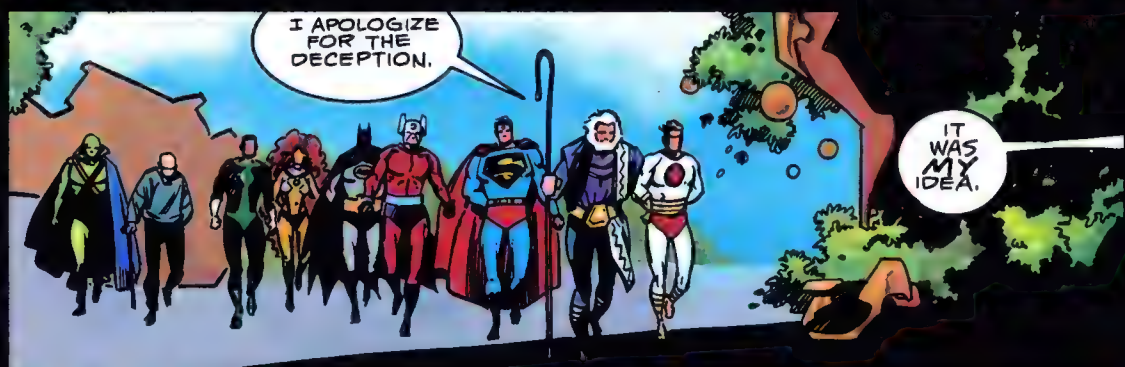
NEW GENESIS:
EVERYTIME I SEE THE
PLACE, IT KNOCKS MY
SOCKS OFF. IT'S THE
NEAREST THING TO
PARADISE I'VE
EVER ENCOUNTERED.

I FIND IT
HARD TO BE-
LIEVE THAT
IT'S BEEN AT
WAR WITH
APOKOLIPS
FOR THE LAST
FEW CENTURIES.

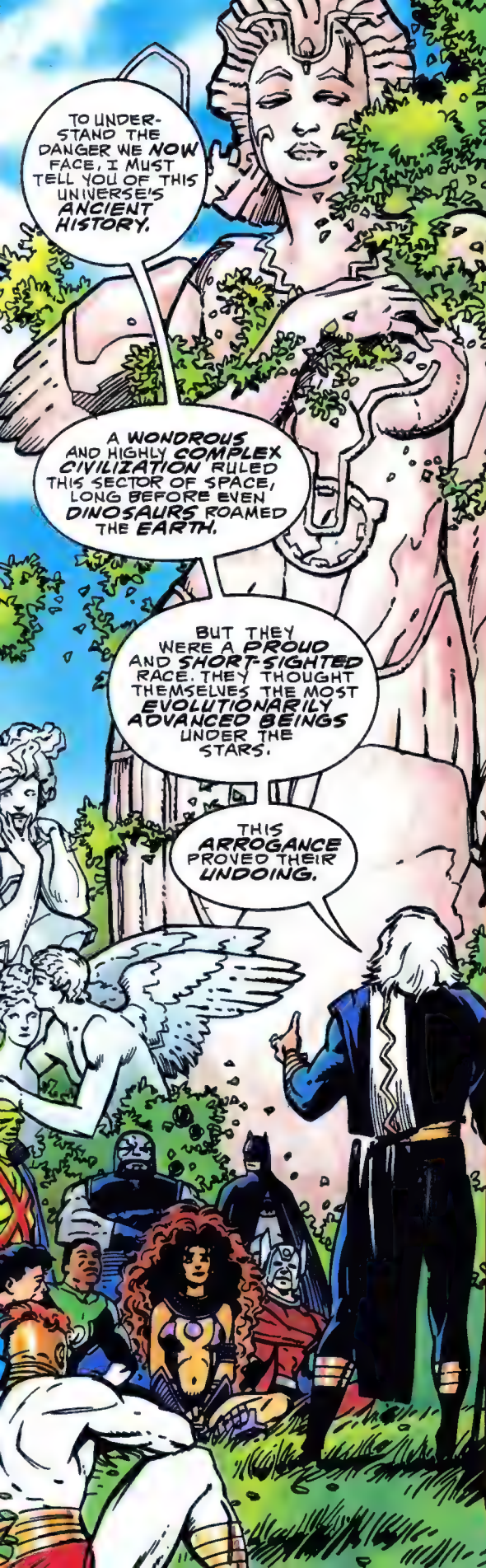
THAT'S WHAT REALLY
GETS ME MAD ABOUT
DARKSEID. HOW CAN
EVEN A MONSTER
LIKE HIM WANT TO
DESTROY SUCH
HARMONY AND
BEAUTY?

ON THE BALCONY
OVER THERE, IT'S
HIGHFATHER,
LIGHTRAY AND
ORION.









TO UNDER-
STAND THE
DANGER WE NOW
FACE, I MUST
TELL YOU OF THIS
UNIVERSE'S
ANCIENT
HISTORY.

A WONDROUS
AND HIGHLY COMPLEX
CIVILIZATION RULED
THIS SECTOR OF SPACE,
LONG BEFORE EVEN
DINOSAURS ROAMED
THE EARTH.

BUT THEY
WERE A PROUD
AND SHORT-SIGHTED
RACE. THEY THOUGHT
THEMSELVES THE MOST
EVOLUTIONARILY
ADVANCED BEINGS
UNDER THE
STARS.

THIS
ARROGANCE
PROVED THEIR
UNDOING.

"THEIR EMPIRE EXTENDED ACROSS
A DOZEN STAR SYSTEMS AND
HUNDREDS OF PLANETS.

"THEY HAD LONG AGO ABANDONED
INTER-SPECIES WARFARE.
THEIRS SHOULD HAVE BEEN A
UTOPIAN EXISTENCE.

"BUT IT
WASN'T.

"THE ANCIENT
RECORDS SHOW THAT
THIS CIVILIZATION
FINALLY MADE CONTACT
WITH A NON-HUMAN
ALIEN RACE.

"EVERYTHING MIGHT
HAVE WORKED OUT
ALL RIGHT IF ONLY
THEY HAD TRIED
TO DEAL WITH THE
ALIENS AS EQUALS.

"BUT EVEN THEIR
EARLIEST
WRITINGS ON
THE MATTER
SHOW THAT THEY
FELT TERRIBLY
SUPERIOR TO
THEIR NEW
GALACTIC
NEIGHBORS.

"OF COURSE, THE TWO RACES FINALLY WENT TO WAR. THE HUMANS FELT IT WAS THEIR MORAL OBLIGATION TO HUMBLE THOSE INHUMAN MONSTERS."

"THEY WERE EXTREMELY SURPRISED TO DISCOVER THAT THE ALIENS WEREN'T GOING TO BE EASILY CONQUERED."

"THE WARFARE CONTINUED AS DECADES CHANGED INTO CENTURIES."

"ALL OF THIS ONCE-GREAT SOCIETY'S RESOURCES WERE TURNED TO THE PROBLEM OF ALIEN ERADICATION."

"NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS WERE CREATED AND PRODUCED REGULARLY, BUT THEY WERE ALWAYS COUNTERED BY NEW ALIEN DISCOVERIES."

"THEN ONE DAY A GROUP OF SCIENTISTS STUMBLED UPON WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS THE ANSWER."

THEY CALLED THEIR DISCOVERY THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION.

"IT TOOK THEM NEARLY A CENTURY TO PERFECT THE TECHNOLOGY NEEDED TO PROPERLY UTILIZE THE EQUATION..."

"IT WAS HERALDED AS THE BREAK-THROUGH THAT WOULD PUT AN END TO THE WAR."

"...THEN DECADES MORE TO CONSTRUCT A WEAPON THAT COULD FOCUS THE ANTI-LIFE'S POWER."

"THE ANTI-LIFE CANNON
NEARLY BANKRUPTED THIS
ONCE-PROUD SOCIETY,
TAKING FAR LONGER THAN
EXPECTED TO COMPLETE.

"THE PLAN WAS
TO BLANKET
THE INVADERS'
SOLAR SYSTEM,
TO SLAY ALL
ALIENS IN A
TWO-HUNDRED
LIGHT-YEAR
KILL-RANGE."

YES, THERE
WERE ~~SOME~~
AMONG THIS RACE
WHO SAW THIS
GALACTIC
GENOCIDE
FOR WHAT IT
REALLY
WAS.

WE'VE FOUND
TRANSCRIPTS
OF THEIR
SPEECHES.

BUT APPARENTLY, THIS
RACE'S CHAUVIN-
ISTIC PRIDE BLINDED
THEM TO THE IMMOR-
ALITY OF THEIR
PLANS.

THERE WERE ALSO
SCIENTISTS WHO
PREDICTED THAT
THE ANTI-LIFE
ENERGIES MIGHT
PROVE...

BUT THESE WARN-
INGS, TOO, WERE
DROWNED OUT BY
THE CRIES FOR...

IN THE END, THE MIL-
ITARY SEIZED CON-
TROL OF THE ANTI-
LIFE CANNON... AND
THE GOVERNMENT.

...UNCONTROLLABLE.

...BLOOD AND
VENGEANCE.

"THE ENEMY
HAD TO DIE!"

"THE GODS OF LIGHT
AND DARKNESS WERE
ON THEIR SIDE.

"THEIR
CAUSE
WAS
JUST!"

"I'M SURE THAT WHEN THE EMPIRE'S PRESIDENT SQUEEZED INTO THAT CRAMPED LITTLE CONTROL ROOM, HE FELT HE WAS DOING THE RIGHT THING.



"WHEN HE PUSHED THAT BUTTON, HE WOULD BE RIDING THE UNIVERSE OF A BUNCH OF GODLESS ALIENS.



"THE HEAVENS WOULD BE...

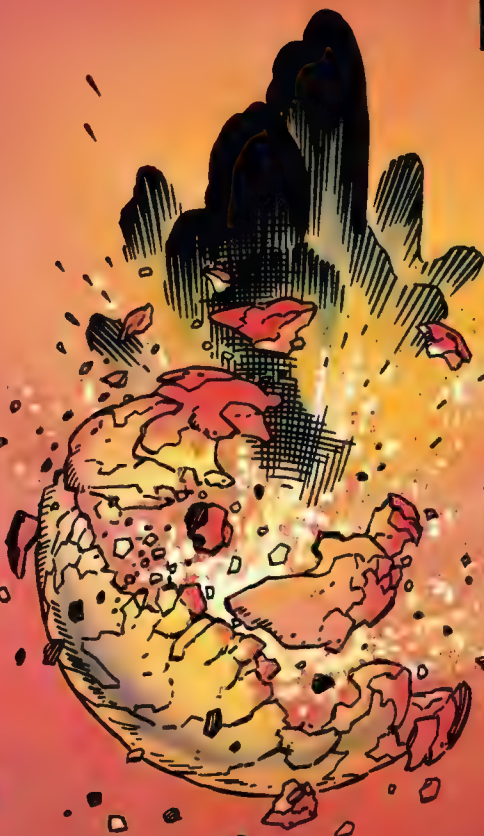


"...A BETTER PLACE WITHOUT THEM.

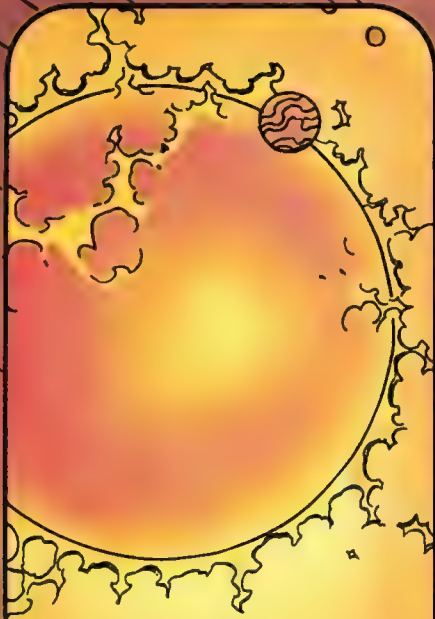


"I DOUBT HE EVER KNEW WHAT HIT HIM.

"RECENT RECORDS WE'VE UNEARTHED SHOW THAT THE EMPIRE'S CAPITAL PLANET WAS INSTANTLY RIPPED ASUNDER.



"THE NAYSAYERS HAD BEEN CORRECT. THE ANTI-LIFE'S ENERGIES COULD NOT BE HARNESSSED BY MERE MORTALS.



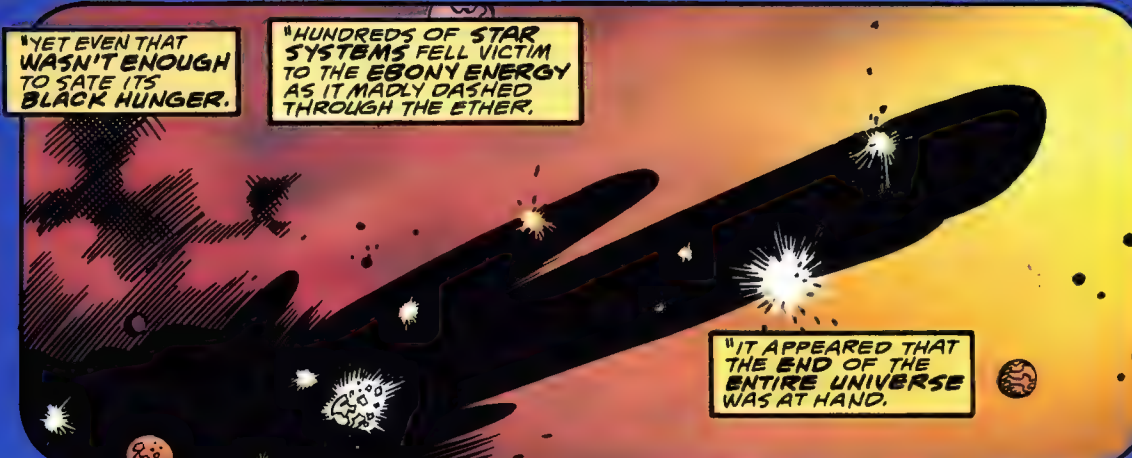
"NOR WOULD
THE DARK
FORCE BE
SATISFIED
WITH ONE
MEAGER
PLANET.

"ITS APPE-
TITES WERE
GALACTIC.

"THE RELEASED
ANTI-LIFE
ENERGIES
REACHED OUT
TO THE SUN...



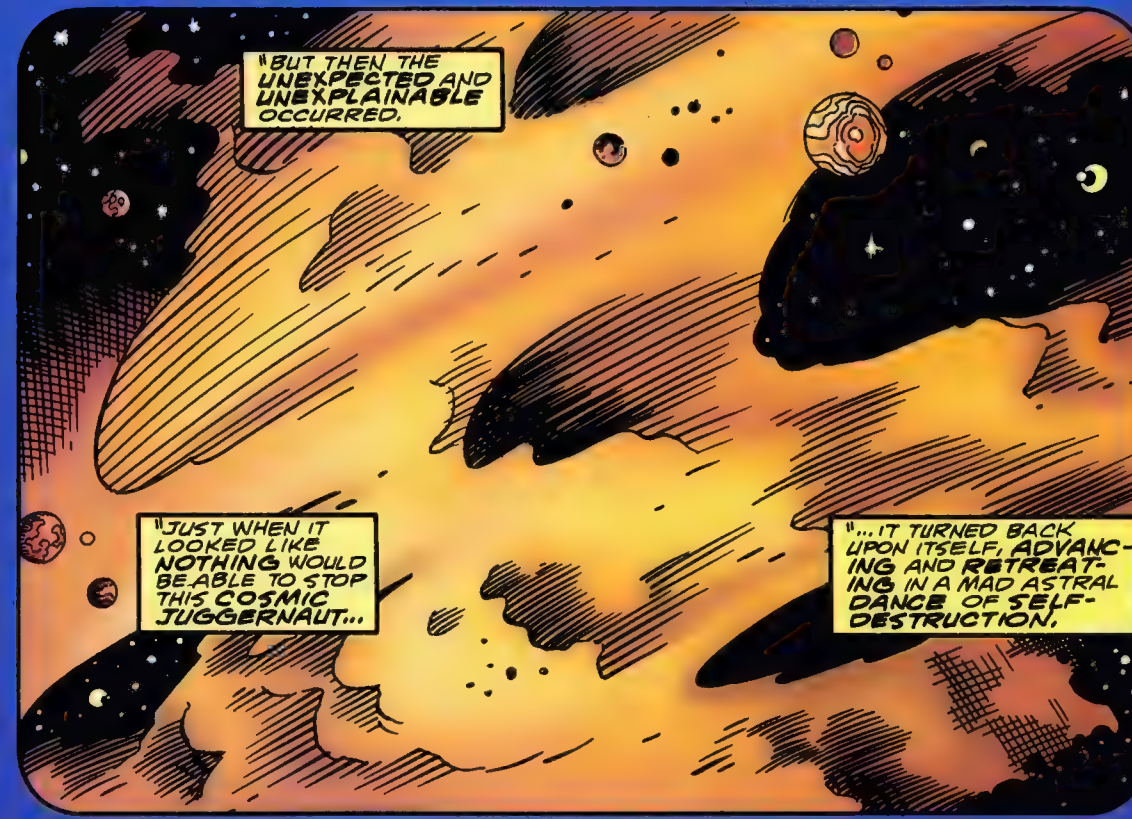
"...AND
CONSUMED
IT!



"YET EVEN THAT
WASN'T ENOUGH
TO SATISFY ITS
BLACK HUNGER."

"HUNDREDS OF STAR
SYSTEMS FELL VICTIM
TO THE EBONY ENERGY
AS IT MADLY DASHED
THROUGH THE ETHER."

"IT APPEARED THAT
THE END OF THE
ENTIRE UNIVERSE
WAS AT HAND."



"BUT THEN THE
UNEXPECTED AND
UNEXPLAINABLE
OCCURRED."

"JUST WHEN IT
LOOKED LIKE
NOTHING WOULD
BE ABLE TO STOP
THIS COSMIC
JUGGERNAUT..."

"...IT TURNED BACK
UPON ITSELF, ADVANC-
ING AND RETREAT-
ING IN A MAD ASTRAL
DANCE OF SELF-
DESTRUCTION."



"A TWO-HUNDRED-SQUARE-
LIGHT-YEAR AREA OF SPACE
WAS REDUCED TO COSMIC DUST
WHEN THE ANTI-LIFE ENERGIES
IMPOLED, ENDING ITS BRIEF...
YET INDESCRIBABLY DESTRUCTIVE
EXISTENCE IN OUR UNIVERSE."

"BUT EVEN AMIDST SUCH ALL-ENCOMPASSING TRAGEDY, THERE ARE MIRACLES."

"SOMEHOW TWO WORLDS ORBITING AROUND A SINGLE STAR SURVIVED THE CATAclysm."

"BUT THEY DID NOT ESCAPE THIS COSMIC DOOM UNSCATHED."



"THE CIVILIZATIONS OF BOTH PLANETS WERE PITCHED BACK INTO THE STONE AGES."

"UNTOLD CENTURIES PASSED. THE SURVIVORS ONCE AGAIN BEGAN THE LONG CLIMB OUT OF THE ABYSS."

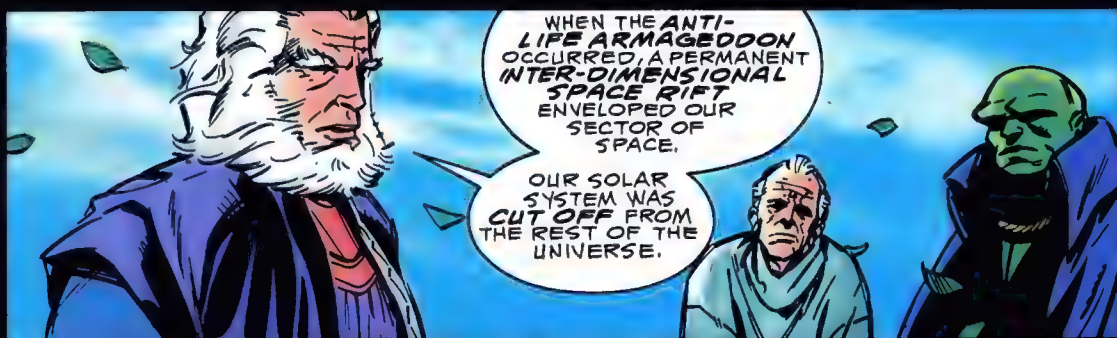
"ON NEW GENESIS, WE LIKE TO THINK WE'VE LEARNED A LESSON FROM THE PAST."

"THE PATH WE CHOSE LEADS HOPEFULLY TO PEACE AND ENLIGHTENMENT."

"APOKOLIPS, ON THE OTHER HAND, EVOLVED IN A MORE MARTIAL MANNER."

"THEY EMBRACED A WAY OF STRIFE, WHERE ONLY THE STRONG RULE AND SURVIVE."

BUT BOTH WORLDS WERE IN FOR A STARTLING SURPRISE WHEN THEY RE-GAINED THEIR SPACE TRAVEL CAPABILITIES."



WHEN THE **ANTI-LIFE ARMAGEDDON** OCCURRED, A PERMANENT **INTER-DIMENSIONAL SPACE RIFT** ENVELOPED OUR SECTOR OF SPACE.

OUR SOLAR SYSTEM WAS **CUT OFF** FROM THE REST OF THE UNIVERSE.



IT WASN'T UNTIL CENTURIES LATER THAT WE DEVELOPED THE **MOTHER BOXES**, THE MINIATURE QUASI-SENTIENT COMPUTERS THAT CAN GENERATE A **BOOM TUBE**.

THE **BOOM TUBES**, THOSE **TELE-PORTATIONAL VORTICES**, ALLOWED US TO ONCE AGAIN MAKE CONTACT WITH THE **OUTER UNIVERSE**.



SO THAT'S WHY NO ONE IN THE **GREEN LANTERN CORPS** HAS EVER BEEN ABLE TO **LOCATE** YOUR TWO PLANETS.

YOU CAN'T GET HERE WITHOUT A **MOTHER BOX**.

MAN, THAT'S WEIRD.

BUT WHAT HAS ALL THIS TO DO WITH SOMETHING **THREATENING** OUR RESPECTIVE UNIVERSES?

IT WAS THOUGHT AND HOPED THAT THE **ANTI-LIFE EQUATION** WAS LOST IN ANTIQUITY.

BUT THERE WERE SOME AMONG US WHO STILL SEARCHED FOR THIS **LOST SECRET**.

LIKE **DARK-SEID**?

AND **METRON**, WHO SOUGHT IT BECAUSE OF AN UNQUENCHABLE THIRST FOR **PURE KNOWLEDGE**.





I, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAD A MORE **PRACTICAL PURPOSE** IN MIND FOR THE EQUATION.



IF IT HAD BEEN **I** WHO REDISCOVERED THE EQUATION, I'D NOT HAVE **TINKERED** WITH IT UNTIL I WAS SURE I COULD **CONTROL** IT.



BUT **METRON** BEAT ME TO THIS END AND SO **UNLEASHED** THE **ANGER** WE NOW **FACE**.



I FOUND THE **FOOL** AFTER HE HAD ALREADY COM- MITTED HIS **FOLLY**.

HE WAS AND IS IN A STATE OF **CATATONIA**; HIS MIND **SHATTERED** BY THE EX- PERIENCE,

LUCKILY, HIS STORED **DATA** WERE STILL **INTACT**.



BUT UPON EXAMINING HIS RECORDS, I DISCOVERED SOME **DISTURB- ING FACTS**.

IT APPEARS THAT OUR **BASIC CONCEPT** OF WHAT THE **ANTI-LIFE FORCE** IS IS **ERRONEOUS**.



UNFORTUNATELY, **TRUE UNDER- STANDING** OF THE ANTI-LIFE FORCE CANNOT BE GAINED FROM MERELY GOING OVER **METRON'S DATA**.

BUT THIS GOAL IS STILL **ATTAIN- ABLE**.

HOW?



BY DELVING INTO THE **SECRETS** THAT ARE LOCKED WITHIN **METRON'S MIND**.



FORAGER,
BRING METRON
FORWARD.

WHAT'S
THAT **BUG**
DOING
HERE?

YOU THINK
YOU'RE GOING
TO GET **INFO**
OUT OF THAT
TURNIP?

GOOD
LUCK...



SUPPRESS YOUR
NATURAL PREJUDICES,
ORION.

YES, HIGH-
FATHER. MY
APOLO-
GIES.



JUST HOW
DO YOU PLAN TO
READ HIS
THOUGHTS,
DARKSEID?

I BELIEVE
THIS IS WHY
I WAS
ASKED
HERE.



WE MUST FIND OUT
EXACTLY WHAT
HAPPENED WHEN
METRON
ENCOUNTERED
THE ANTI-LIFE
FORCE,
TELEPATH.



I WILL TRY, BUT I
HAVE NEVER **MELD-**
ED WITH A MIND SO
ALIEN AND IN
SUCH **DIS-**
ARRAY.



EVEN AT A
DISTANCE, I
CAN SENSE
THE **CHAOS**
OF HIS
BRAIN-
WAVES.



WAIT!

YES, I'M MAKING
CONTACT! HIS
MIND IS **REACH-**
ING OUT TO
TOUCH MINE!

"HIS MIND IS
IN GREAT
PAIN AND
ANGUISH!

"I CAN
FEEL HIM
... I CAN
... I... I..."

"I AM METRON AND I
RIDE THE ASTRAL WINDS
IN MY MOBIUS CHAIR,
SEEKING KNOWLEDGE.

"THIS IS MY LIFE'S
PURPOSE, AND I
AM ON THE VERGE
OF MAKING MY
GREATEST DIS-
COVERY.

"AT LAST I BELIEVE I HAVE
DECIPHERED THE FINAL
SEGMENTS OF THE LONG-
LOST ANTI-LIFE
EQUATION.

"I AM WELL AWARE
OF THE PERILS
INVOLVED IN THIS
ENDEAVOR.

"THAT IS WHY I
HAVE CHOSEN
THIS UNINHAB-
ITED SECTOR
OF SPACE IN
WHICH TO TEST
MY THEORIES.

"IT IS MY HUNGER FOR
KNOWLEDGE THAT
DRIVES ME ON.

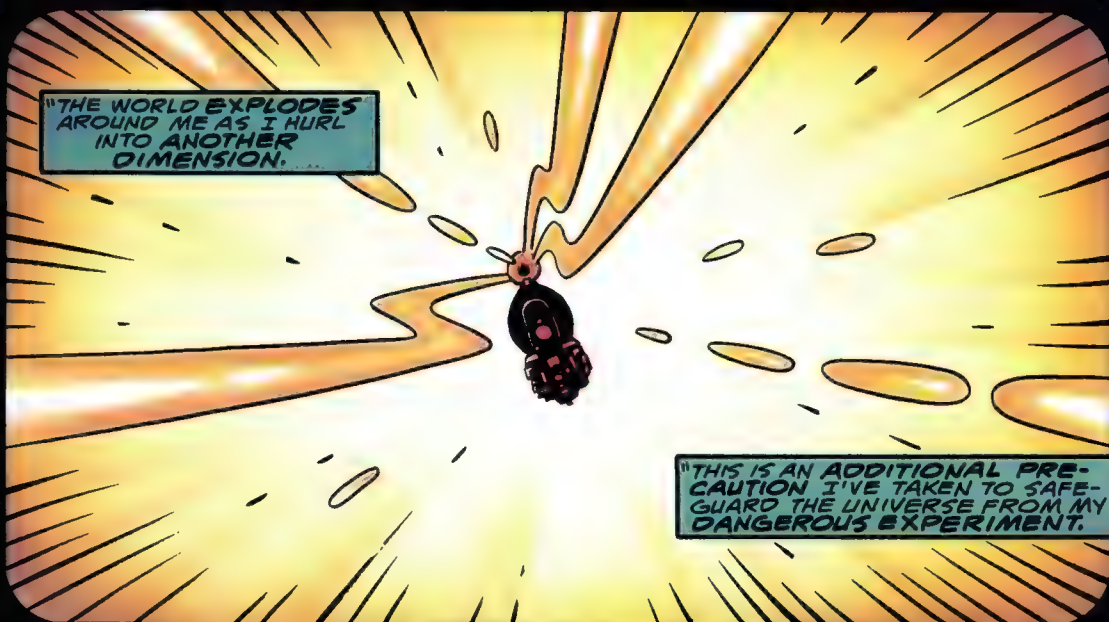
"IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG,
LET NO ONE BUT ME FALL
VICTIM TO THIS DESIRE.

"I PUNCH THE COORDINATES IN WITH A SHAKY HAND. THE MOMENT IS UPON ME.



"THE UNIVERSE'S DARKEST SECRET ABOUT TO BE REVEALED TO ME!

"THE WORLD EXPLODES
AROUND ME AS I HURL
INTO ANOTHER
DIMENSION.



"THIS IS AN ADDITIONAL PRE-
CAUTION I'VE TAKEN TO SAFE-
GUARD THE UNIVERSE FROM MY
DANGEROUS EXPERIMENT.

"BUT MY JOURNEY
CONTINUES AS
THE EQUATION
KICKS IN.

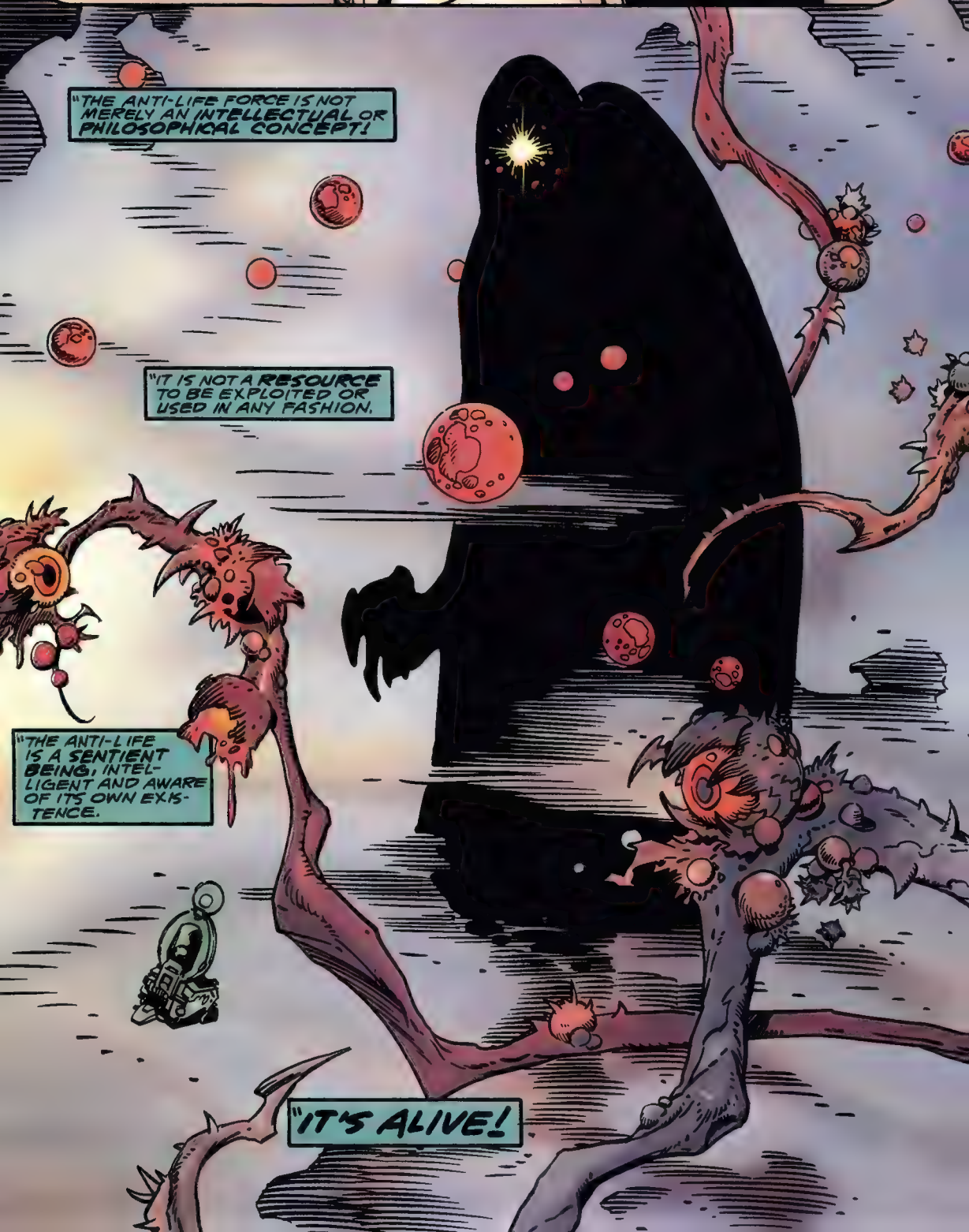


"I HAVE MODIFIED THE
FORMULA SO THAT I AM
TAKEN TO THE SOURCE OF
THE ANTI-LIFE ENERGIES
RATHER THAN RISK GRANTING
IT ACCESS TO MY REALITY.



"THE JOURNEY ENDS SOONER THAN I EXPECT AND I FIND MYSELF FACING THE OBJECT OF MY SEARCH."

"IMMEDIATELY, I REALIZE THE DREADFUL MISTAKE I HAVE MADE."



"THE ANTI-LIFE FORCE IS NOT MERELY AN INTELLECTUAL OR PHILOSOPHICAL CONCEPT!"

"IT IS NOT A RESOURCE TO BE EXPLOITED OR USED IN ANY FASHION."

"THE ANTI-LIFE IS A SENTIENT BEING, INTELLIGENT AND AWARE OF ITS OWN EXISTENCE."

"IT'S ALIVE!"

"I CAN FEEL THE
LIMITLESS POWER
THAT IS THIS ENTITY."



"WE OF NEW
GENESIS HAVE THE
EFFRONTERY TO
CALL OURSELVES
GODS."



"I NOW SEE WHAT
A GOD TRULY IS.
I'VE NEVER FELT
SO INSIGNIFI-
CANT."



"NEXT TO THIS
DEITY, I AM
NOTHING!"



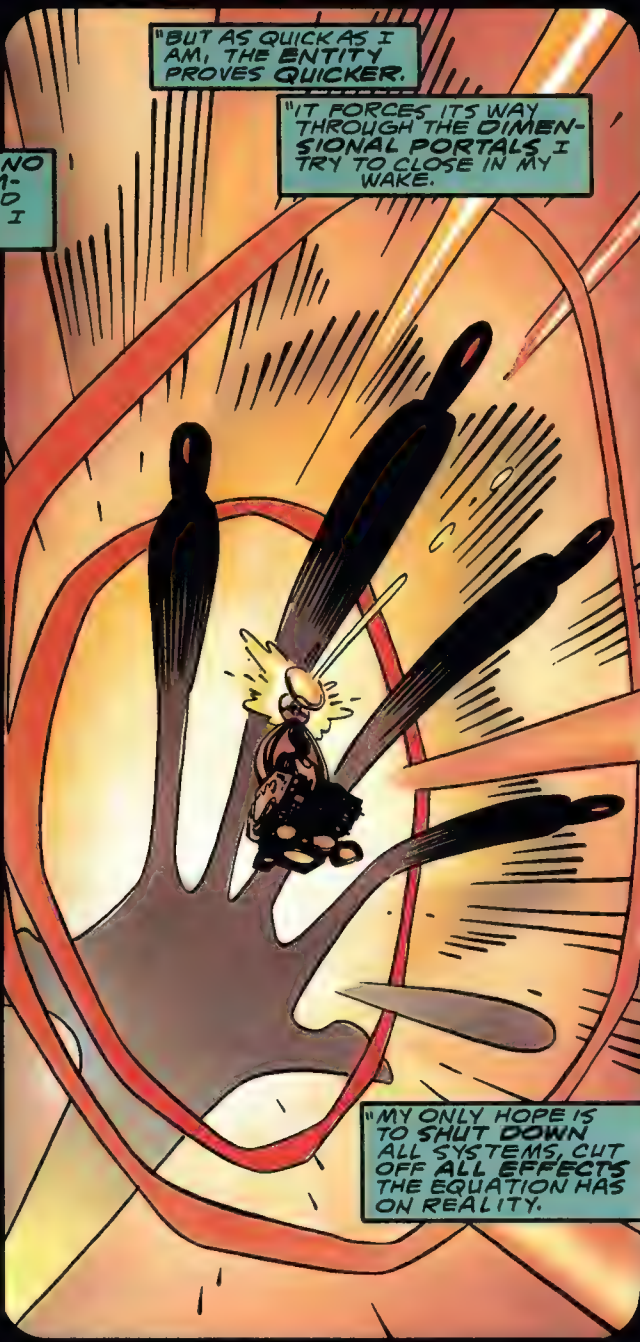
"MY FINGERS FLY
ACROSS THE
CONTROL
PANEL, RE-
VERSING THE
EQUATION."

"THIS IS A REALM NO
MORTAL OR IM-
MORTAL SHOULD
EVER TREAD IN. I
MUST ESCAPE."

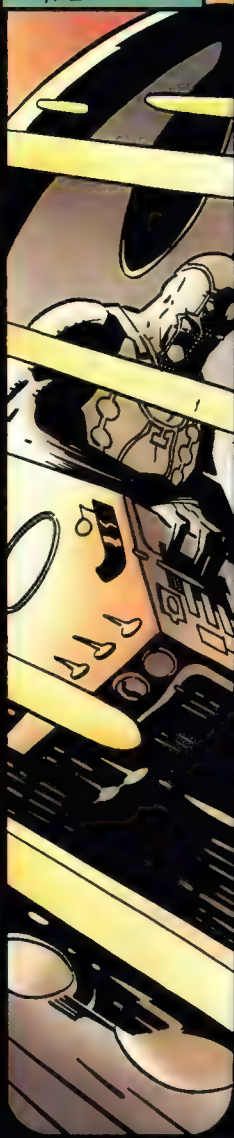
"BUT AS QUICK AS I
AM, THE ENTITY
PROVES QUICKER."

"IT FORCES ITS WAY
THROUGH THE DIMEN-
SIONAL PORTALS I
TRY TO CLOSE IN MY
WAKE."

"I PRAY MY
OWN INTER-
DIMENSIONAL
INERTIA WILL
CARRY ME TO
SAFETY, LEAV-
ING THE EN-
TITY TRAPPED
FAR BEHIND
ME."



"MY ONLY HOPE IS
TO SHUT DOWN
ALL SYSTEMS, CUT
OFF ALL EFFECTS
THE EQUATION HAS
ON REALITY."



"I SUCCEEDED IN A LIMITED FASHION. THE MAIN EMBODIMENT OF THE ENTITY IS SNARED IN A DIMENSIONAL LAYER.

"BUT THE MONSTER CASTS FOUR ASPECTS OF ITSELF TO FOLLOW ME BACK TO MY UNIVERSE.

"MY REENTRY INTO FAMILIAR REALITY IS A JARRING EXPERIENCE. I REALIZE MY MIND HAS BEEN TERRIBLY DAMAGED BY THIS EXPERIENCE.

"THE ASPECTS SPEED OFF ON SOME UNKNOWN MISSION OF THEIR OWN.

"SOMEHOW I MANAGE TO PUNCH A FEW LAST SCAN COMMANDS AND SOME COORDINATES INTO MY MOTHER BOX.

"SPINNING POWERLESS AS I AM THROUGH THE VOIDS OF REALITY, THERE IS NO WAY TO ELUDE THEM.



"I AM VAGUELY AWARE OF CRASH-LANDING ON A DESERTED PLANETOID."



BUT...

EVERY-THING...

BEGINS...

TO...

TO...

I...

I...

I...



I'VE GOT IT,

WE ALL GOT IT, PAL.

METRON'S INTELLECT IS SO POWERFUL THAT EVERYONE PICKED UP HIS THOUGHTS THROUGH YOU.

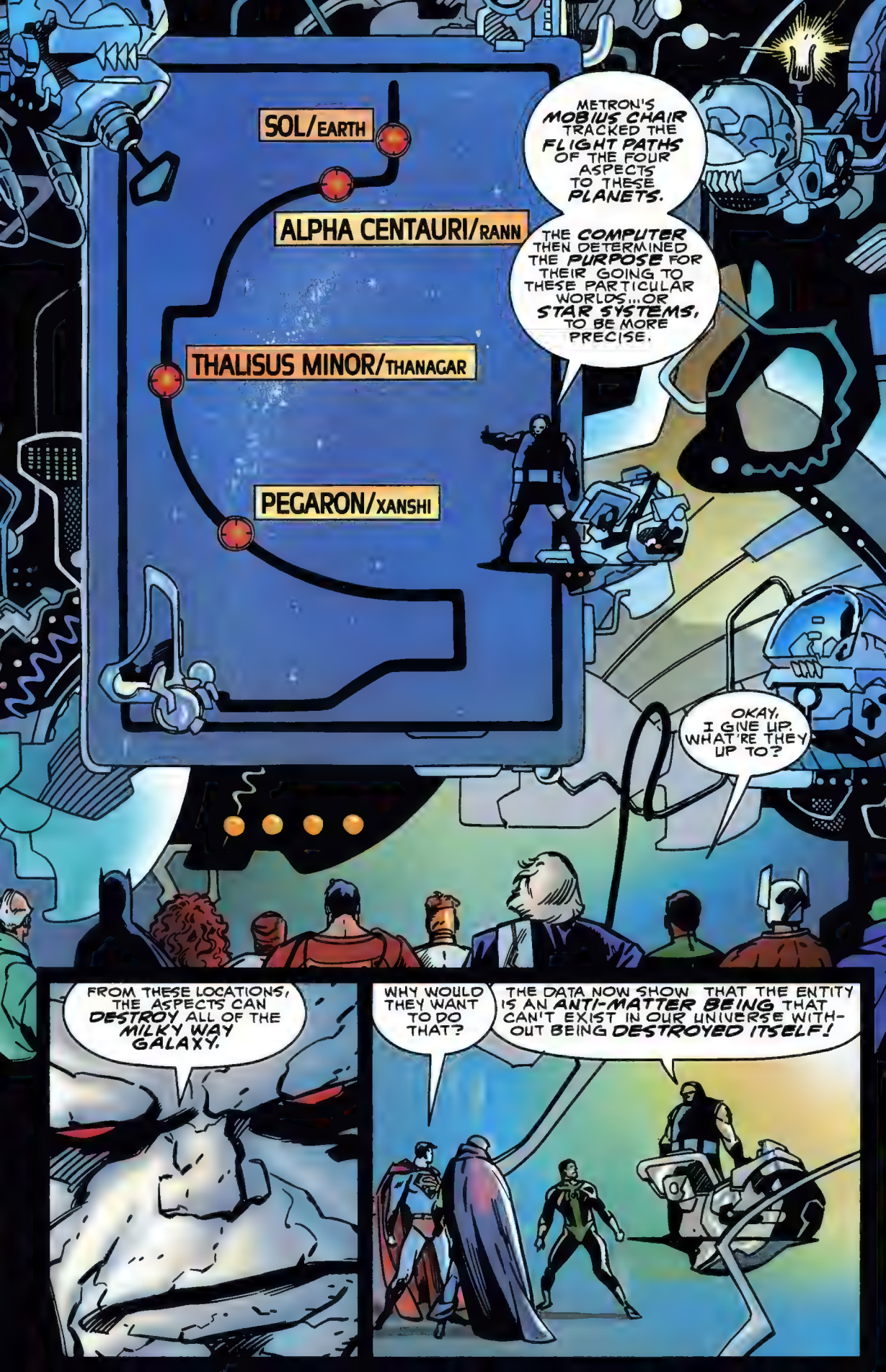


SUCH A FINE MIND... SO DAMAGED... HOW SAD...

I FEAR WE'VE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT AT THIS MOMENT.

YOU MEAN THE ANTI-LIFE ENTITY?





SOL/EARTH

ALPHA CENTAURI/RANN

THALISUS MINOR/THANAGAR

PEGARON/XANSHI

METRON'S
MOBIUS CHAIR
TRACKED THE
FLIGHT PATHS
OF THE FOUR
ASPECTS
TO THESE
PLANETS.

THE COMPUTER
THEN DETERMINED
THE PURPOSE FOR
THEIR GOING TO
THESE PARTICULAR
WORLDS...OR
STAR SYSTEMS,
TO BE MORE
PRECISE.

OKAY,
I GIVE UP.
WHAT'RE THEY
UP TO?

FROM THESE LOCATIONS,
THE ASPECTS CAN
DESTROY ALL OF THE
MILKY WAY
GALAXY.

WHY WOULD
THEY WANT
TO DO
THAT?

THE DATA NOW SHOW THAT THE ENTITY
IS AN ANTI-MATTER BEING THAT
CAN'T EXIST IN OUR UNIVERSE WITH-
OUT BEING DESTROYED ITSELF!



BUT ITS **ASPECTS** CAN SURVIVE HERE LONG ENOUGH TO **ARRANGE** A WAY FOR THE ENTITY TO FOLLOW **SAFELY**.



MY **CALCULATIONS** SHOW THAT, UNDER THE RIGHT CIRCUMSTANCES, A MASSIVE **COSMIC UPEHAVAL** COULD ALTER SOME **PHYSICAL LAWS**.



UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, THE ENTITY COULD **ALTER** ITS OWN NATURE ENOUGH TO **GAIN ENTRY** INTO OUR REALITY.



THE CHAOS OF A **DYING GALAXY** IS JUST THE **PRESCRIPTION** IT NEEDS.



IT ALL SOUNDS RATHER **FAR-FETCHED**.

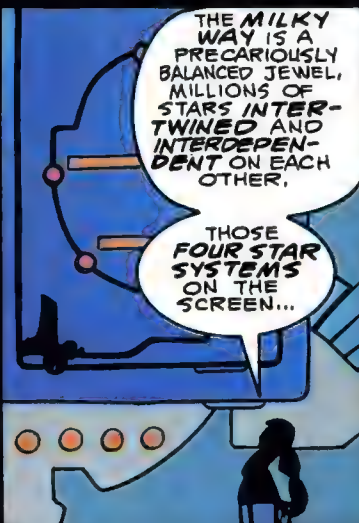
THIS MATTER CONCERNS **SCIENCES** I CANNOT EXPECT CREATURES OF YOUR **INTELLECT** TO UNDERSTAND.



HOW ARE THESE **ASPECTS** PLANNING ON KILLING OUR GALAXY?



GRAVITY IS THE GLUE THAT HOLDS ALL THINGS TOGETHER, EVEN **GALAXIES**.

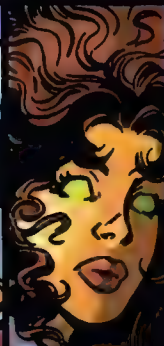


THE **MILKY WAY** IS A PRECARIOUSLY BALANCED JEWEL, MILLIONS OF STARS **INTER-TWINED** AND **INTERDEPENDENT** ON EACH OTHER.

THOSE **FOUR STAR SYSTEMS** ON THE SCREEN...



...KNOCK OUT ANY **TWO** OF THEM AND THE **MILKY WAY** WILL **COLLAPSE** IN ON ITSELF.





IT'S THAT SIMPLE.

CAN THIS BE TRUE?

WHAT DO YOU THINK, SUPES?

I DON'T KNOW.

THIS IS ALL BEYOND ME.



I FEAR THAT IN THIS SITUATION WE MUST ACCEPT DARKSEID'S WORD.

I'VE GONE OVER HIS FIGURES AND THEY CHECK OUT.

THEN LET'S GET AFTER THESE ASPECTS AND STOP THEM.



THE QUESTION IS HOW.

FORE-SEEING THIS EVENTUALITY, I DEvised THESE WEAPONS.



THEY WILL DISRUPT THE ASPECT'S ENERGY FLOWS AND TAKE THEM CAPTIVE.



I SUPPOSE THESE POPGUNS INVOLVE SCIENCES CREATURES LIKE US JUST WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.



EXACTLY, SO DON'T ASK.



I HAVE ALSO TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF FORMULATING WHAT TEAMS WILL BE HEADING FOR WHICH PLANET.

ANY OBJEC-TIONS?

NO.



ORION AND SUPERMAN ARE BEST SUITED FOR DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS TO BE FACED ON THANAGAR.

SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.

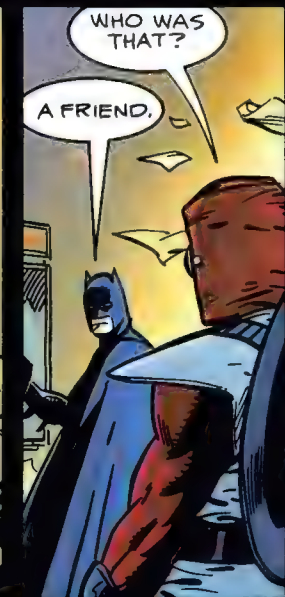
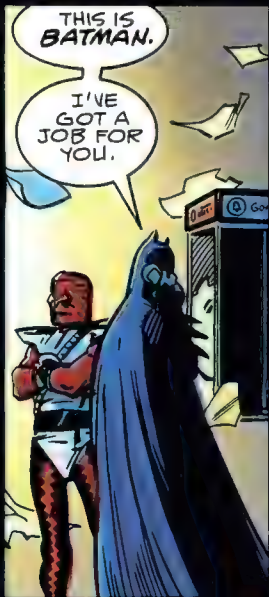


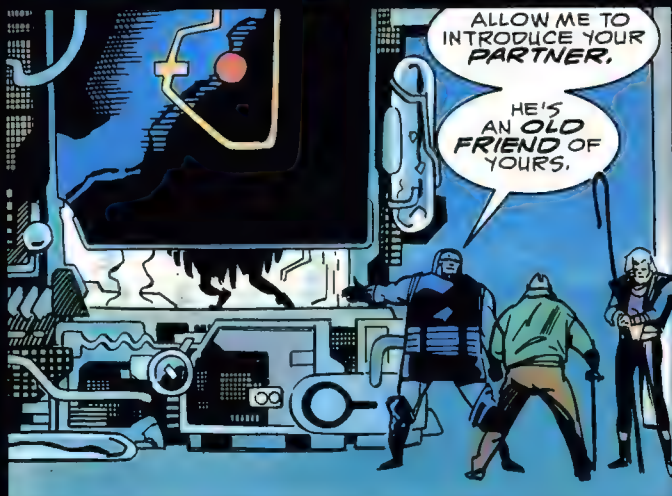
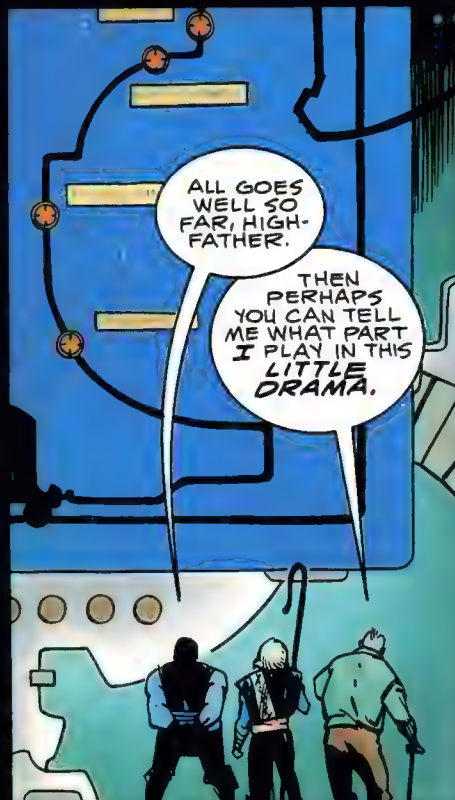
LIGHTRAY AND STARFIRE WILL GO TO RANN.

I'M GLAD TO BE WORKING WITH YOU.

YEAH... SURE...







THANAGAR.

HERE
THEY COME,
ORION.

WHAT
KIND OF A
RECEPTION
DO YOU
FIGURE WE'LL
GET?

A HOSTILE
ONE, SUPERMAN.

THANAGAR-
IANS ARE
UNIVERSALLY
KNOWN FOR THEIR
BELLIGERENT
ATTITUDES.

IF I WERE THE **ANTI-LIFE**
ASPECT, THE FIRST THING
I'D DO IS TAKE **MENTAL**
CONTROL OF ALL THANA-
GARIANS AND USE THEM
AS MY **FRONTAL LINE**
OF DEFENSE.

DO YOU THINK
THE ASPECT HAS
THE POWER TO DO
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT?

POSSIBLY.
WE'RE DEALING
WITH A BEING
THAT HAS THE
POWER TO
DECIMATE
OUR ENTIRE
UNIVERSE.

WHEN YOU
CAN DO SOME-
THING LIKE
THAT,
WHAT'S A
LITTLE
MIND
CON-
TROL?

WELL, I GUESS
WE'RE ABOUT TO
FIND OUT IF YOU'RE
RIGHT OR NOT.



THERE'S
YOUR
ANSWER!!

AMAZING!

HOW
DID YOU
KNOW?!

I'VE GOT
THIS FEELING
FOR THE DARK
SIDE OF
THINGS.

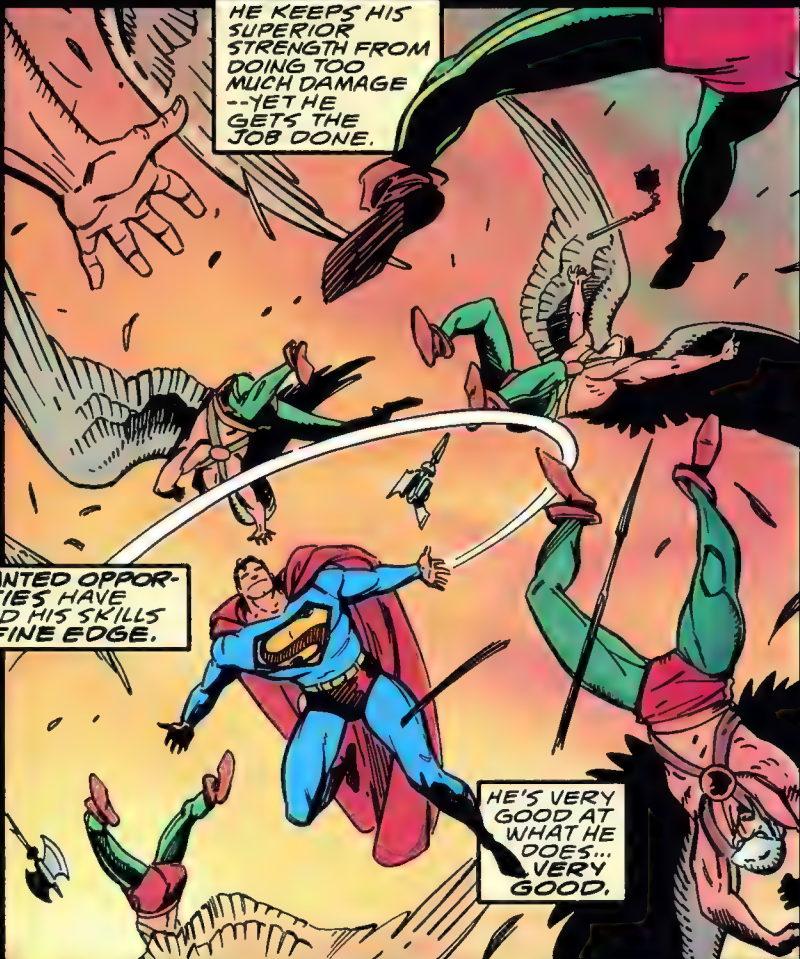
THE HIDDEN DEPTH OF FEELING IN
THAT SNIDE AND CRYPTIC REMARK
DOESN'T ESCAPE THE MAN OF
STEEL, BUT HE HAS NO CHANCE
TO PONDER ITS MEANING.

SURVIVAL MEANS UNCLUTTERING
THE REFLEXES WITH NEEDLESS
THOUGHT. THE TIME HAS COME
TO DEFEND AND RESPOND.



SUPERMAN WAS NOT BORN TO BE A WARRIOR. HIS NATURAL INCLINATIONS ARE VERY PACIFIC.

BUT LIFE HAS TAUGHT HIM THAT A MARTIAL PATH IS A ROAD THAT SOMETIMES MUST BE TRAVELED.



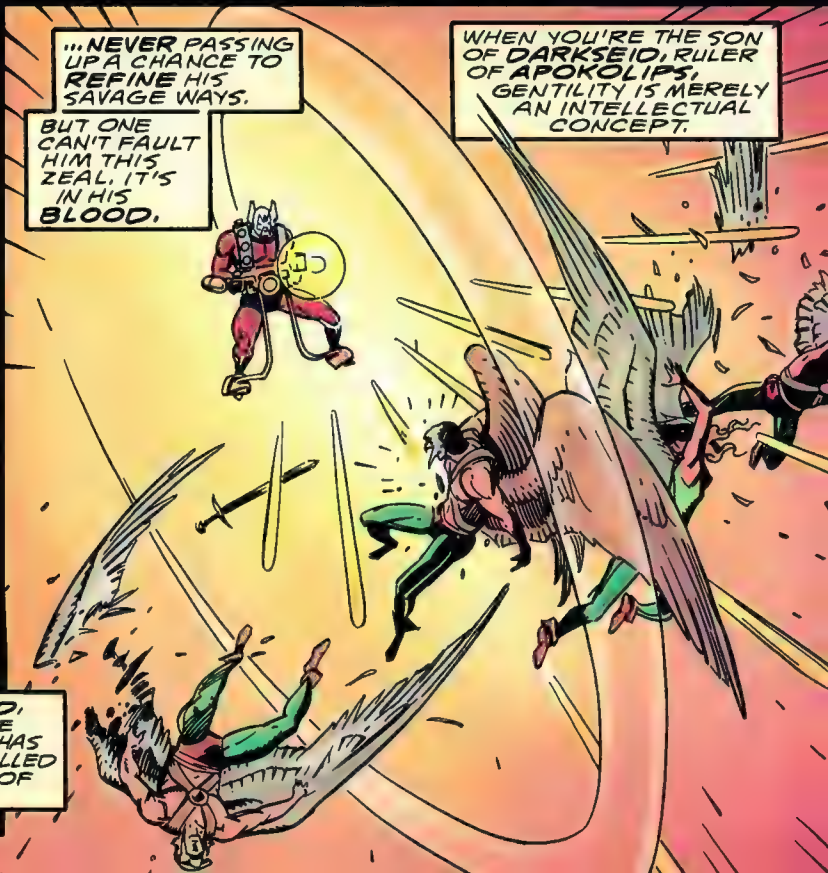
HE KEEPS HIS SUPERIOR STRENGTH FROM DOING TOO MUCH DAMAGE --YET HE GETS THE JOB DONE.

UNWANTED OPPORTUNITIES HAVE HONED HIS SKILLS TO A FINE EDGE.

HE'S VERY GOOD AT WHAT HE DOES... VERY GOOD.



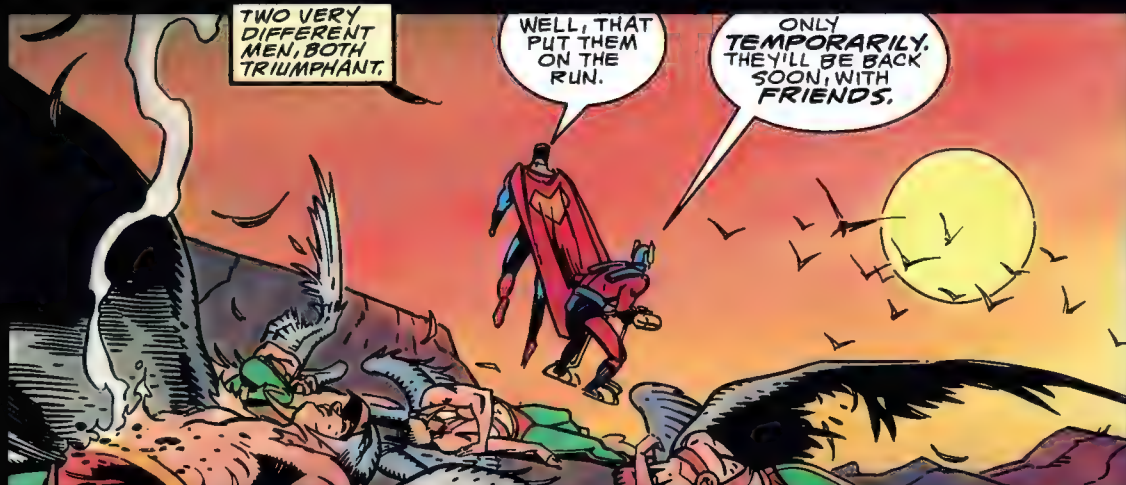
THE NEW GOD, ORION, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS ALWAYS REVELLED IN THE WAYS OF WAR...



...NEVER PASSING UP A CHANCE TO REFINE HIS SAVAGE WAYS.

BUT ONE CAN'T FAULT HIM THIS ZEAL, IT'S IN HIS BLOOD.

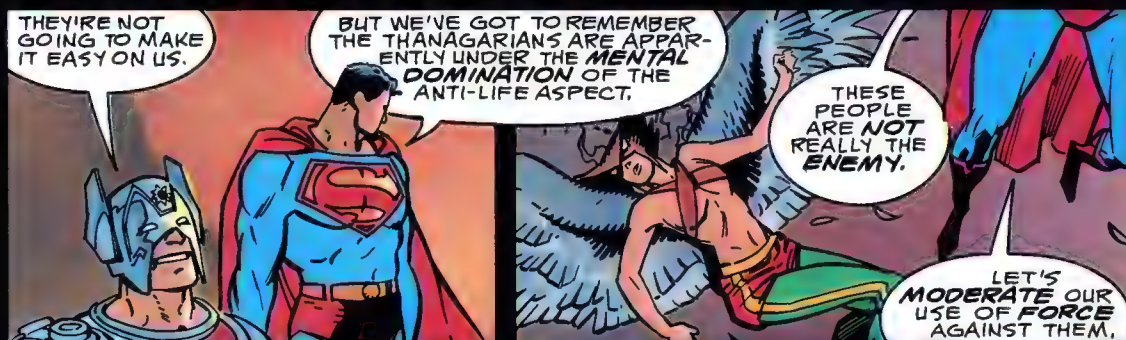
WHEN YOU'RE THE SON OF DARKSEID, RULER OF APOKOLIPS, GENTILITY IS MERELY AN INTELLECTUAL CONCEPT.



TWO VERY DIFFERENT MEN, BOTH TRIUMPHANT.

WELL, THAT PUT THEM ON THE RUN.

ONLY TEMPORARILY. THEY'LL BE BACK SOON, WITH FRIENDS.



THEY'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT EASY ON US.

BUT WE'VE GOT TO REMEMBER THE THANAGARIANS ARE APPARENTLY UNDER THE MENTAL DOMINATION OF THE ANTI-LIFE ASPECT.

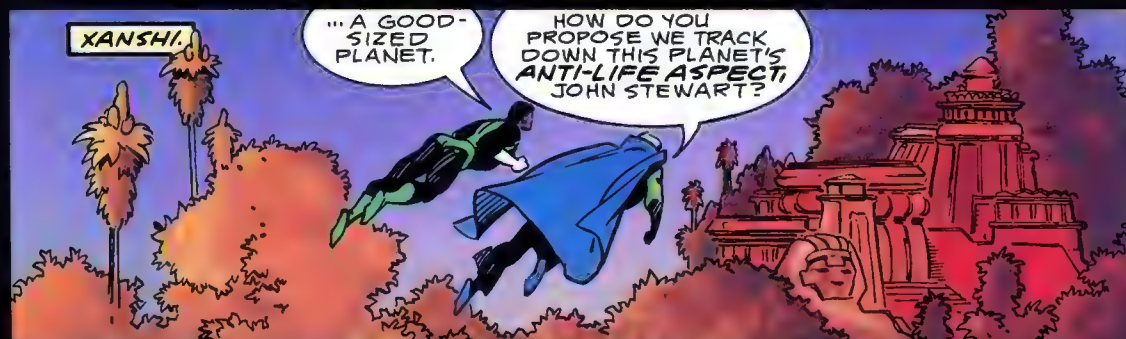
THESE PEOPLE ARE NOT REALLY THE ENEMY.

LET'S MODERATE OUR USE OF FORCE AGAINST THEM.



I'LL CALL IN OUR FINDINGS ON THE INTER-STELLAR COM-LINK.

GOOD IDEA.



XANSHI.

... A GOOD-SIZED PLANET.

HOW DO YOU PROPOSE WE TRACK DOWN THIS PLANET'S ANTI-LIFE ASPECT, JOHN STEWART?

JOHN STEWART WAS
ONCE PART OF THE
ELITE GREEN
LANTERN CORPS,
A BEARER OF ONE
OF THE LAST OF
THE MIRACULOUS
RINGS OF
POWER.

MAYBE
WE'LL GET A
LINE ON IT
HERE IN TOWN,
J'ONZZ.

ANYTHING
AS POWERFUL
AS THIS CRITTER
HAS GOT TO
LEAVE
TRACKS.



J'ONN J'ONZZ, THE
EMERALD GIANT, IS
THE SOLE SURVIVOR
OF THE ONCE-
PROUD MARTIAN
RACE, NOW A
MANHUNTER.

BUT EVEN FOR MEN
SUCH AS THESE,
PLANS GO AWRY.

BY THE
HEAVENS!

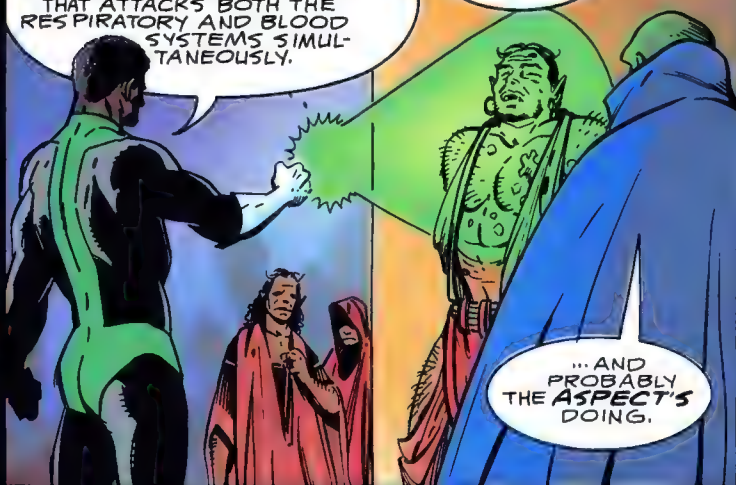


LOOKS LIKE
WE'VE STUMBLER
UPON SOME TYPE
OF INTER-
GALACTIC
EPIDEMIC.



MY POWER RING ANALYZES
IT AS A POWERFUL AIR-BORNE
COMMUNICABLE VIRUS
THAT ATTACKS BOTH THE
RESPIRATORY AND BLOOD
SYSTEMS SIMUL-
TANEOUSLY.

IT'S A
KILLER...

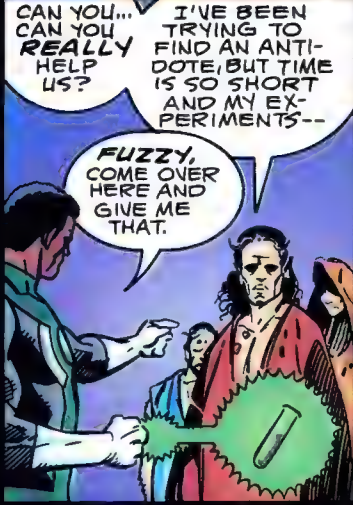


...AND
PROBABLY
THE ASPECT'S
DOING.



IF ONLY WE COULD DO **SOME-THING** TO HELP THESE POOR WRETCHES! BUT OUR **TIME...**

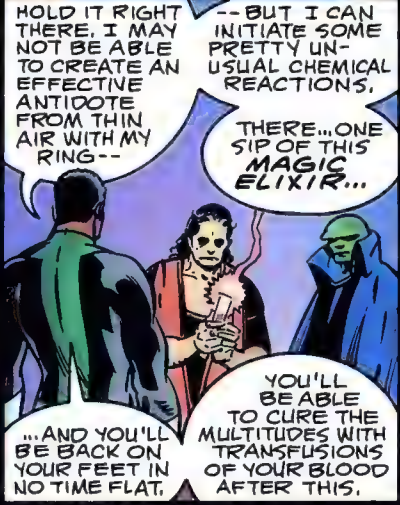
WE'VE GOT ENOUGH OF IT TO PLAY **FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.**



CAN YOU... CAN YOU **REALLY** HELP US?

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIND AN ANTI-DOTE, BUT TIME IS SO SHORT AND MY EXPERIMENTS--

FUZZY, COME OVER HERE AND GIVE ME THAT.



HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CREATE AN EFFECTIVE ANTI-DOTE FROM THIN AIR WITH MY RING--

-- BUT I CAN INITIATE SOME PRETTY UNUSUAL CHEMICAL REACTIONS,

THERE... ONE SIP OF THIS **MAGIC ELIXIR...**

...AND YOU'LL BE BACK ON YOUR FEET IN NO TIME FLAT.

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CURE THE MULTITUDES WITH TRANSFUSIONS OF YOUR BLOOD AFTER THIS.

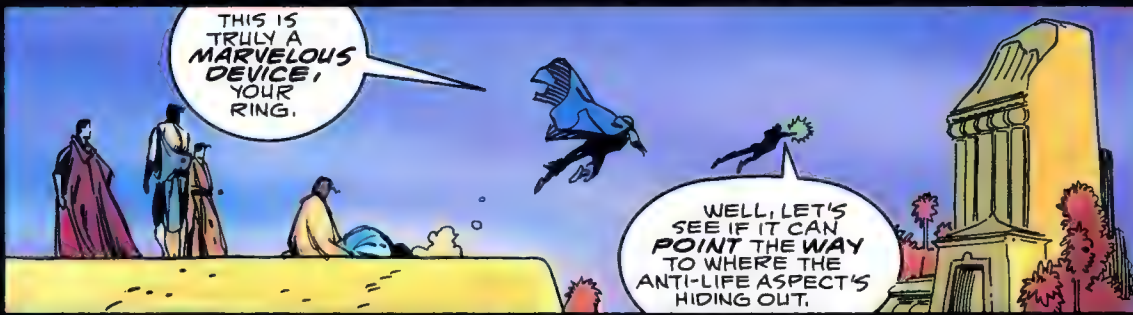


GOOD THING MY RING DIDN'T SLEEP THROUGH BIOLOGY.

HOW CAN WE EVER THANK YOU?

BY PROMPTLY...

...PAYING THE **BILL** WHEN IT ARRIVES IN THE MAIL.



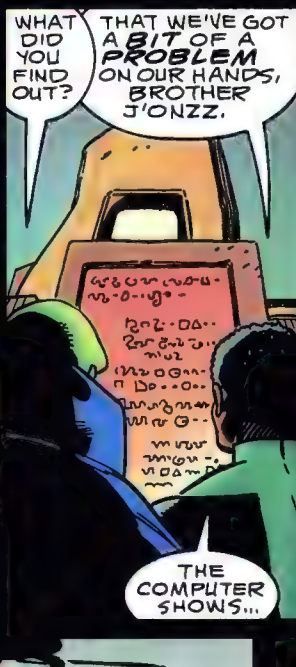
THIS IS TRULY A **MARVELOUS DEVICE,** YOUR RING.

WELL, LET'S SEE IF IT CAN **POINT THE WAY** TO WHERE THE ANTI-LIFE ASPECT'S HIDING OUT.



FIGURE PLUGGING INTO THIS WORLD'S **COMPUTER SYSTEM** IS ONE WAY OF TACKLING THE PROBLEM, I'LL START WITH THE **POWER COMPANY.**

BULLS-EYE ON THE FIRST SHOT!



WHAT DID YOU FIND OUT?

THAT WE'VE GOT A **BIT OF A PROBLEM** ON OUR HANDS, BROTHER J'ONZZ.

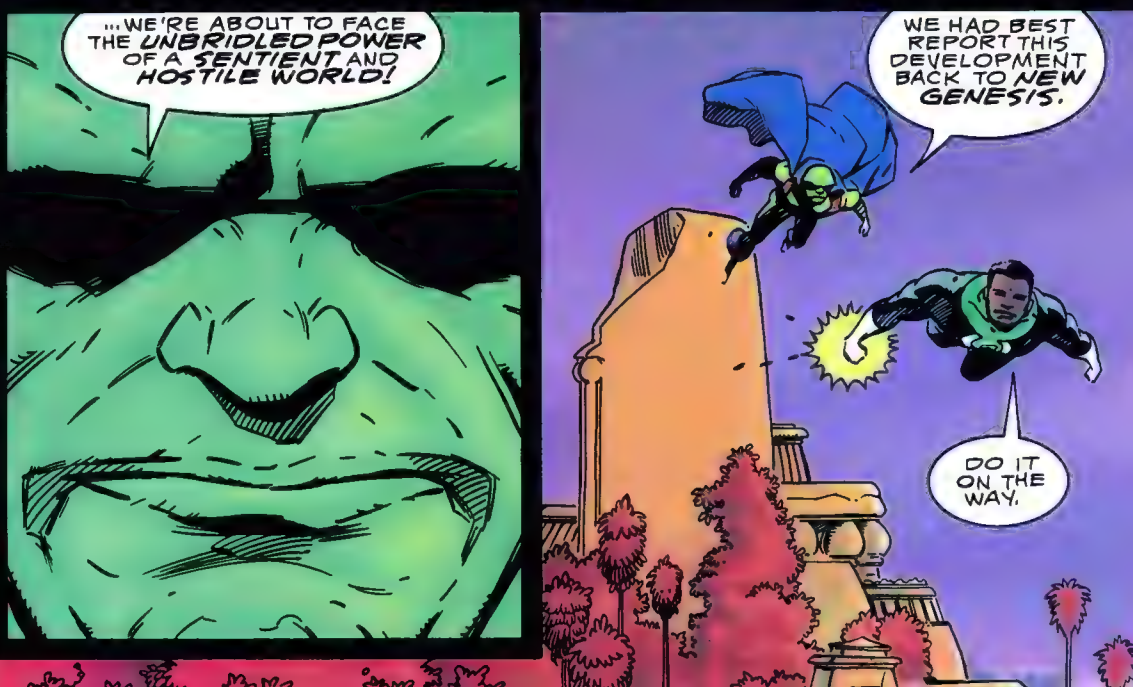
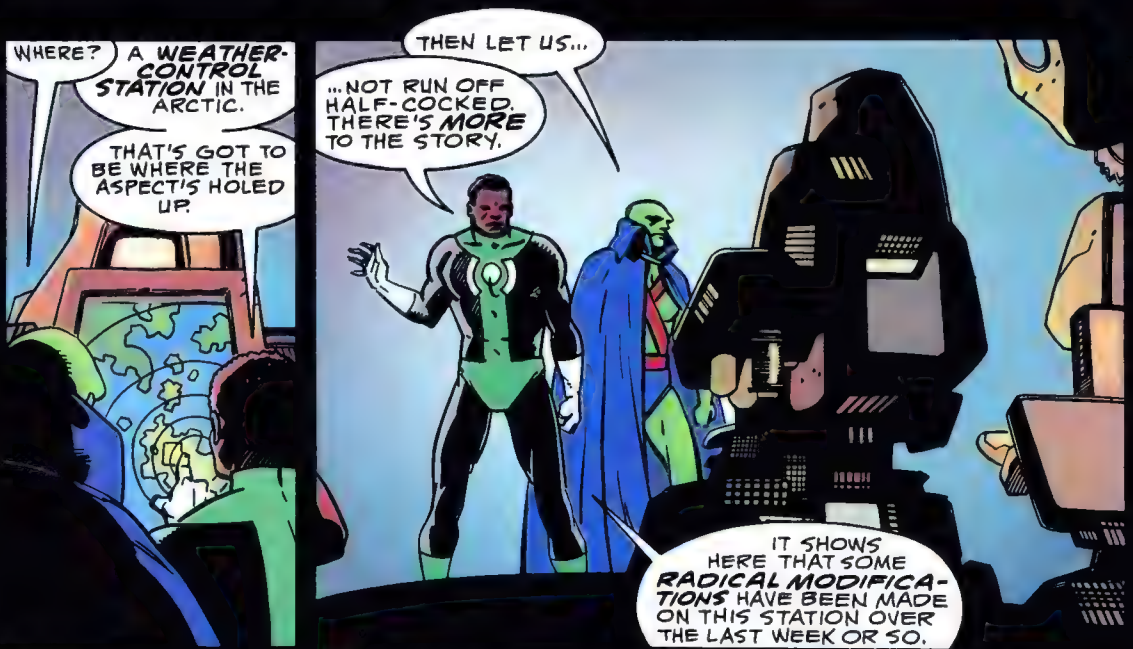
THE **COMPUTER** SHOWS...



...THAT THIS PLAGUE HAS **KNOCKED OUT** ALL ACTIVITY ON THE PLANET. NONE OF THE **BIG ELECTRICAL POWER USERS** ARE TAPPING MUCH OFF THE LINE.

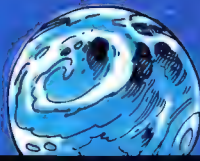
BUT ONE PLACE IN PARTICULAR IS USING...

...TEN TIMES THE JUICE IT USUALLY DOES.



EARTH...

...THE HOME OF MANY
A HERO, INCLUDING
THE DARK KNIGHT
KNOWN AS BATMAN.



THE BATCAVE.

THE ONE
CALLED ORION
DIDN'T SEEM TO
CARE FOR
YOU MUCH,
FORAGER.



THAT'S
PUTTING IT
MILDLY.

YOU SEE,
BATMAN, I
WAS BORN OF
NEW
GENESIS
AND AM A
NEW
GOD.

BUT I WAS
RAISED AMONG
A **DEVIANT
RACE**, A
LIFE-FORM
CALLED THE
**INSECT
LEGION**.

FOR SOME REASON,
ORION **HATES**
THESE PEOPLE.
CALLS THEM **BUGS**.
IT'S A PRETTY
**COMMON PREJ-
UDICE** ON NEW
GENESIS.

BUT WITH ORION IT
RUNS **DEEPER**. HE
LOATHES **ANYTHING**
CONNECTED WITH
THE **INSECT LEGION**,
MYSELF
INCLUDED.

SEEMS LIKE
A **STUPID
ATTITUDE**
TO ME.

NO ONE'S
EVER
ACCUSED
ORION--

--OF BEING
A PARAGON
OF **LOGICAL
THOUGHT**.

YOU COULD
USE SOME
**IMPROVE-
MENTS**
YOUR-
SELF.

IF WE'RE TO
WORK TO-
GETHER,
WE'LL HAVE
TO MAKE
SOME
CHANGES.

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

I DO MY **BEST
WORK AT
NIGHT**.

THAT RED
AND **WHITE**
COSTUME
HAS GOT
TO GO.

NO
PROBLEM,
BUT **HOW** ARE
WE GOING TO
FIND THE
ANTI-LIFE
ASPECT?



HE'S AN
EXPATRIATED
EARTHMAN.

SHE IS A WARRIOR
WOMAN BRED OF
A MARTIAL
RACE.

HE IS A GOD WITH THE
POWER TO BEND LIGHT
TO HIS WILL AND THE
UNIVERSE IS HIS PLAY-
GROUND.

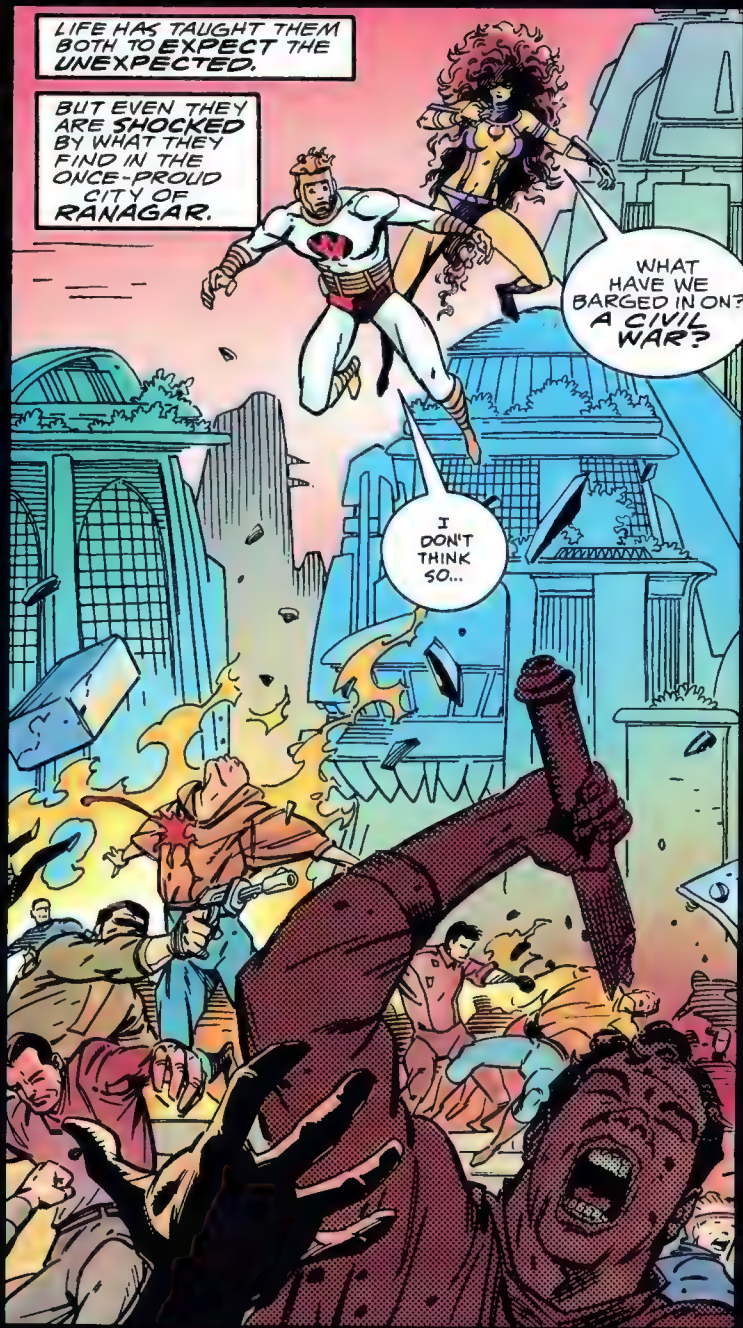
LIFE HAS TAUGHT THEM
BOTH TO EXPECT THE
UNEXPECTED.

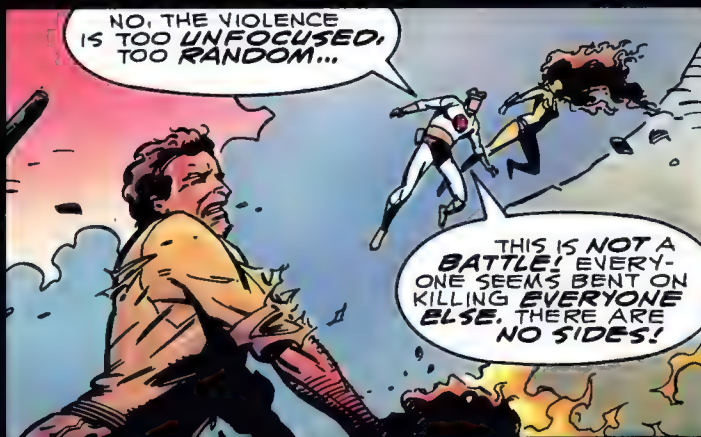
BUT EVEN THEY
ARE SHOCKED
BY WHAT THEY
FIND IN THE
ONCE-PROUD
CITY OF
RANAGAR.

WHAT
HAVE WE
BARGED IN ON?
A CIVIL
WAR?

I
DON'T
THINK
SO...

LOOKS LIKE
SOME BUILDINGS
BURNING UP
AHEAD. LET'S
CHECK IT
OUT.





NO, THE VIOLENCE IS TOO UNFOCUSED, TOO RANDOM...

THIS IS NOT A BATTLE! EVERYONE SEEMS BENT ON KILLING EVERYONE ELSE. THERE ARE NO SIDES!



IT'S AS IF THEY'RE ALL IN THE GRIP OF SOME...

LIGHTRAY! ABOVE YOU!



WHAT?!



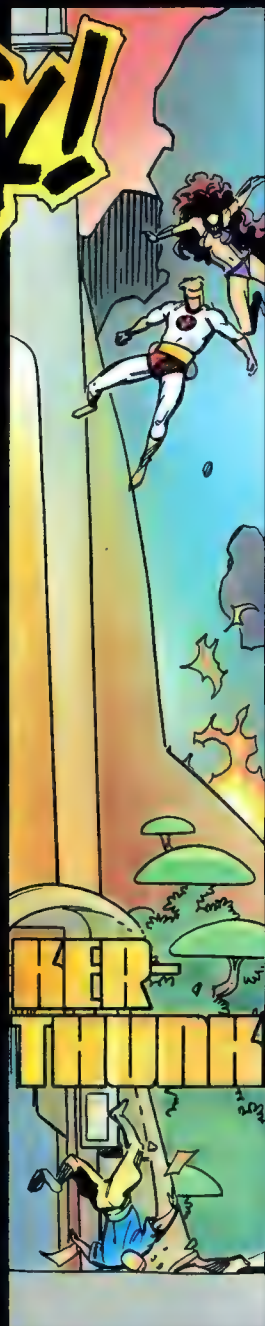
TAKE IT EASY, FRIEND.

I'VE GOT YOU. YOU'RE SAFE NOW.



THWACK!

GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME!



KER-THUNK!



I GUESS IT WAS MY **ALIEN NATURE** THAT SPARED ME FROM THIS PLAGUE OF **MADNESS**.

IT WASN'T EASY SUBDUING **ALANNA** AND HER FATHER **SARDATH** WHEN THE **INSANITY** HIT.

UNFORTUNATELY, I CAN'T DO THE SAME FOR EVERYONE ELSE ON **RANN**.

THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE YOUR ADOPTED WORLD IS TO **LOCATE** AND **CAPTURE** THE **ANTI-LIFE** ASPECT.

FROM WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME ABOUT HOW THIS BEING OPERATES ON **OTHER PLANETS**, MY EDUCATED GUESS IS THAT WE'LL FIND IT AT **PELTEX 5**.

THAT'S A FULLY-AUTOMATED **MANUFACTURING CENTER** JUST OUTSIDE **RANAGAR**.

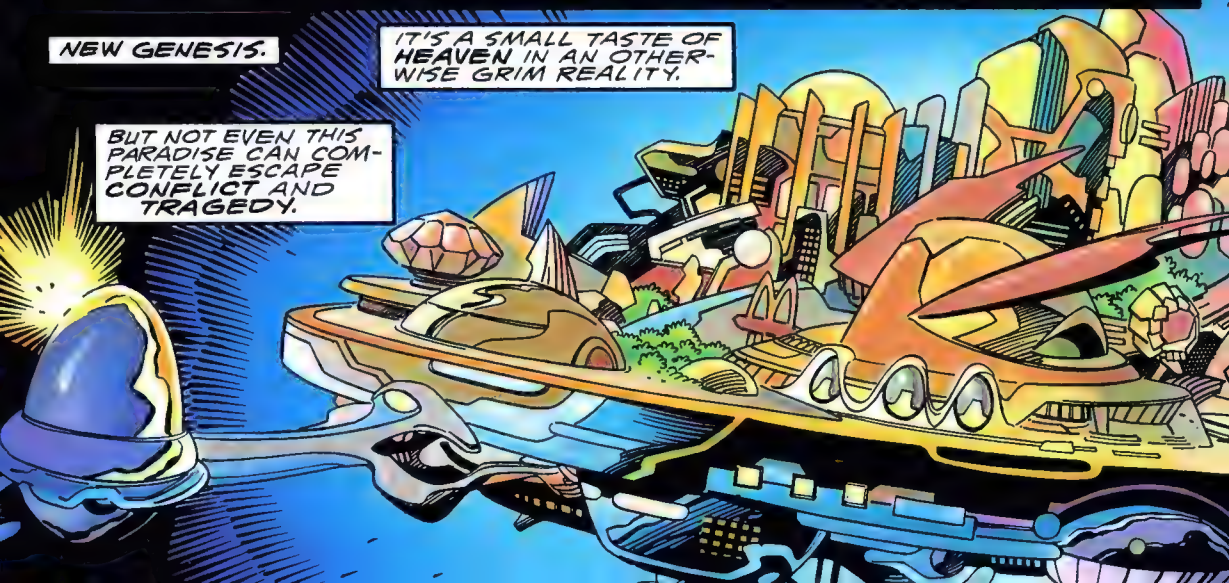
NO HUMANS WORK THERE, ONLY **ROBOT** MAINTENANCE CREWS.

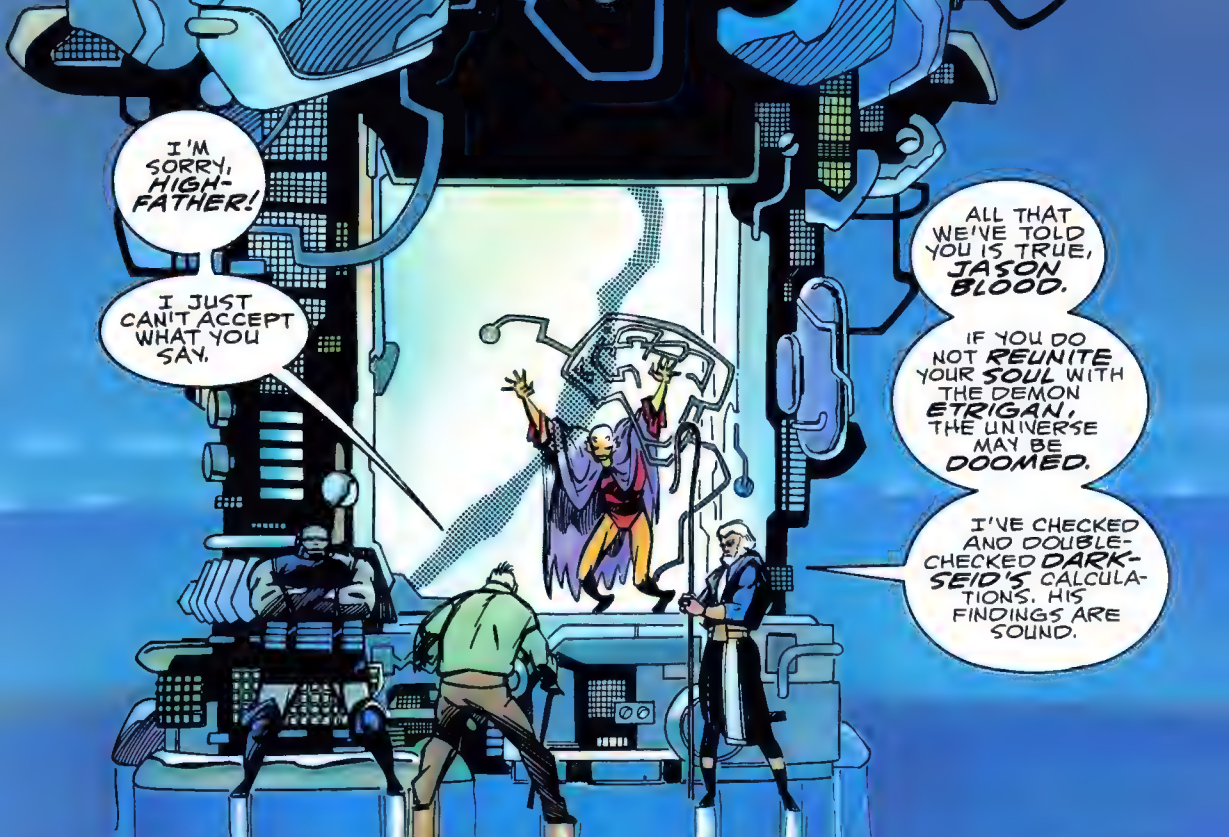


NEW GENESIS.

IT'S A SMALL TASTE OF **HEAVEN** IN AN OTHERWISE **GRIM REALITY**.

BUT NOT EVEN THIS **PARADISE** CAN COMPLETELY **ESCAPE** **CONFLICT** AND **TRAGEDY**.





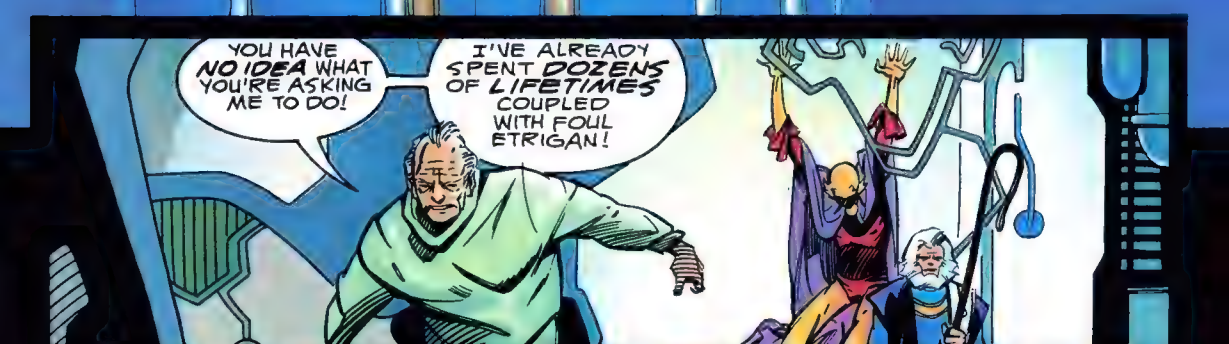
I'M
SORRY,
HIGH-
FATHER!

I JUST
CAN'T ACCEPT
WHAT YOU
SAY.

ALL THAT
WE'VE TOLD
YOU IS TRUE,
**JASON
BLOOD.**

IF YOU DO
NOT **REUNITE**
YOUR **SOUL** WITH
THE DEMON
ETRIGAN,
THE UNIVERSE
MAY BE
DOOMED.

I'VE CHECKED
AND DOUBLE-
CHECKED **DARK-
SEID'S** CALCULA-
TIONS. HIS
FINDINGS ARE
SOUND.



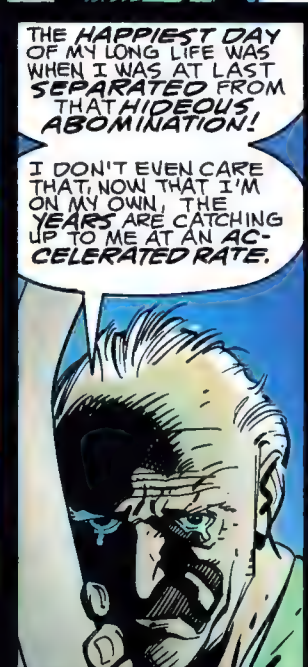
YOU HAVE
NO IDEA WHAT
YOU'RE ASKING
ME TO DO!

I'VE ALREADY
SPENT **DOZENS**
OF **LIFETIMES**
COUPLED
WITH FOUL
ETRIGAN!



YOU CAN'T
IMAGINE
WHAT IT'S LIKE
SHARING YOUR
LIFE WITH A
DEMON.

ETRIGAN IS
A SOULLESS,
**BASE DEGEN-
ERATE**, HIS IS
A WORLD OF
BLOOD, PAIN,
AND SORROW.



THE **HAPPIEST** DAY
OF MY LONG LIFE WAS
WHEN I WAS AT LAST
SEPARATED FROM
THAT **HIDEOUS**
ABOMINATION!

I DON'T EVEN CARE
THAT, NOW THAT I'M
ON MY OWN, THE
YEARS ARE CATCHING
UP TO ME AT AN **AC-
CELERATED** RATE.



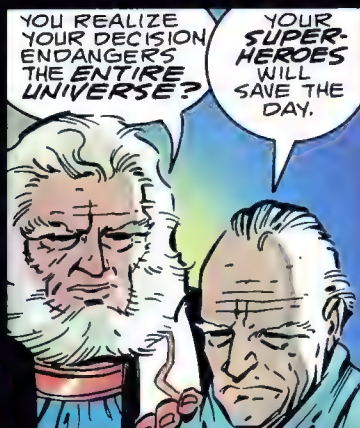
YES, I WILL
SOON **DIE!** I
KNOW THIS!

BUT I WILL
PASS FROM THIS
WORLD A **MAN**,
UNTAINTED BY
DEMONIC
STENCH.



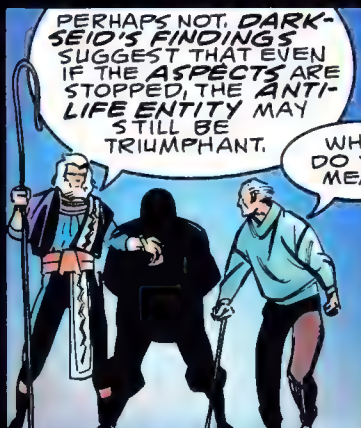
NO, I'LL NOT HAVE **ANYTHING** TO DO WITH THIS **MALIGNANT ENTITY**, EVER AGAIN.

THERE'S **NOTHING** YOU CAN DO TO FORCE ME INTO ONCE AGAIN **BONDING** WITH THIS **DEVIL**.



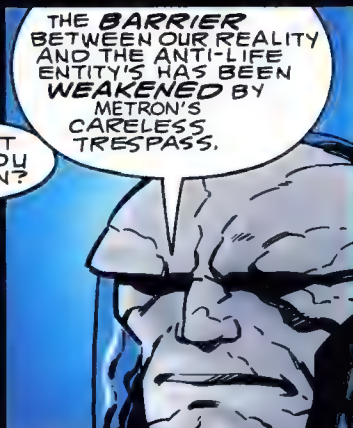
YOU REALIZE YOUR DECISION **ENDANGERS THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE?**

YOUR SUPER-HEROES WILL SAVE THE DAY.



PERHAPS NOT. **DARKSEID'S FINDINGS** SUGGEST THAT EVEN IF THE **ASPECTS** ARE STOPPED, THE **ANTI-LIFE ENTITY** MAY STILL BE **TRIUMPHANT**.

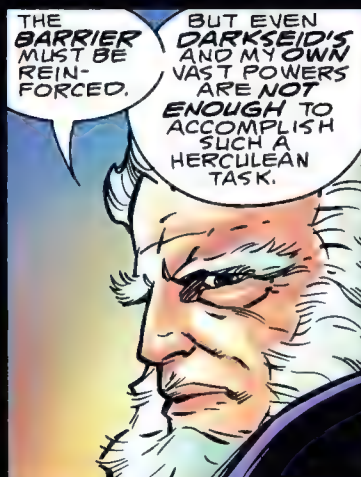
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



THE **BARRIER** BETWEEN OUR REALITY AND THE **ANTI-LIFE ENTITY'S** HAS BEEN **WEAKENED** BY **METRON'S CARELESS TRESPASS**.

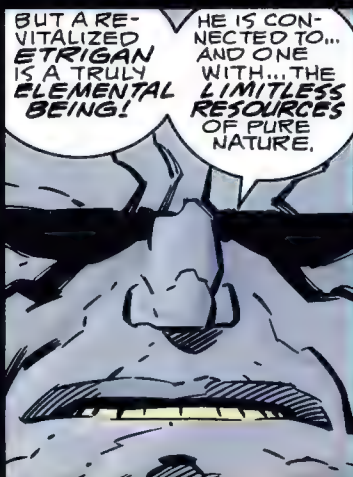


MY **MONITORING PROBES** SHOW THAT THE **ENTITY** IS SEEKING TO **BREACH** THE **BARRIER** FROM ITS SIDE OF IT, EVEN AS WE SPEAK.



THE **BARRIER** MUST BE **REINFORCED**.

BUT EVEN **DARKSEID'S** AND MY OWN **VAST POWERS** ARE NOT **ENOUGH** TO ACCOMPLISH SUCH A **HERCULEAN TASK**.



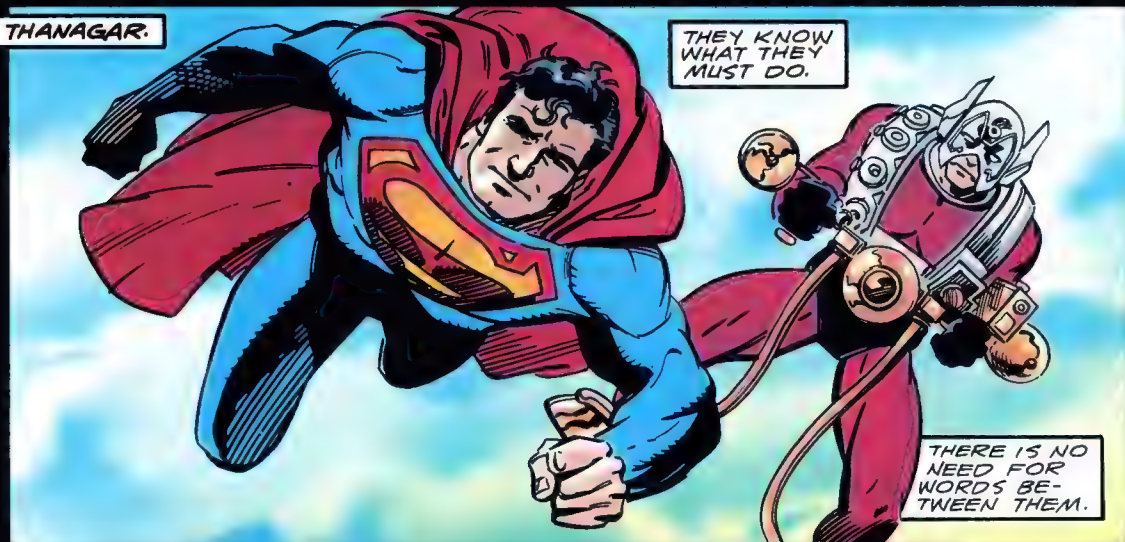
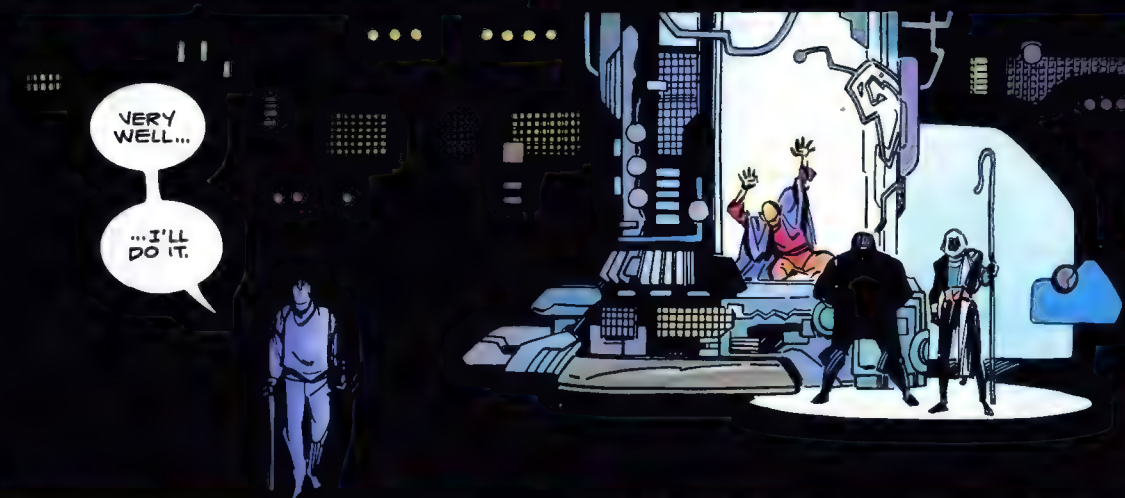
BUT A **RE-VITALIZED ETRIGAN** IS A **TRULY ELEMENTAL BEING!**

HE IS **CONNECTED** TO... AND ONE WITH... THE **LIMITLESS RESOURCES** OF **PURE NATURE**.



MINE IS THE **POWER** TO **TAP** INTO THIS **POWER RESERVOIR**, THROUGH **ETRIGAN**.

BUT HE **MUST BE WHOLE** FOR ME TO DO THIS.







XANSHI.

THAT
WEATHER
STATION HAS
CERTAINLY
CREATED A
FINE MESS
FOR US TO FLY
THROUGH.

MERELY A
DELAYING
TACTIC.

ONE THAT WON'T
DO THE **ANTI-LIFE**
ASPECT MUCH
GOOD, I MIGHT
ADD.

IT'S
OBVIOUSLY
SEVERELY
**UNDER-
ESTIMATED**
OUR
POWER.

PERHAPS,
OR IT MAY BE
ONLY TAKING
ITS TIME ABOUT
DEALING
WITH US.

LOOK!!

THE
LAME-O'S
SENT A
HURRICANE
AFTER
US?!

YOU
GOTTA BE
KIDDING!



THAT
FUNNEL **AIN'T**
ANY **GOOD** IF IT
DON'T HIT ITS
INTENDED
TARGET...

...AND WITH
OUR **SPEED**, IT'S
NO PROBLEM
TO **DETOUR**
AROUND IT.

IN WAR, AS IN CHESS,
A WELL-PLANNED
FEINT IS A BASIC
TOOL OF THE GAME.

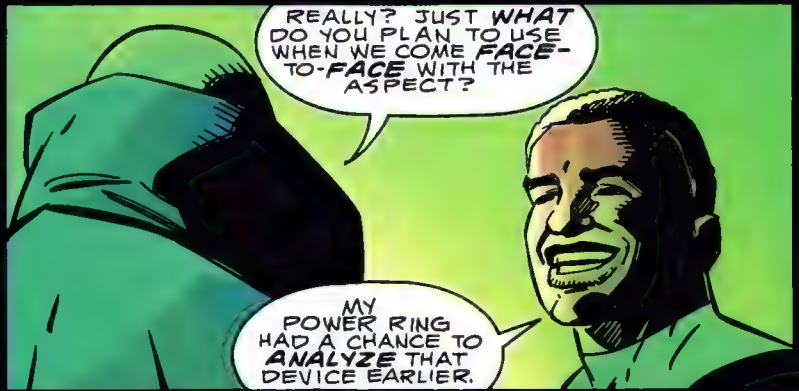
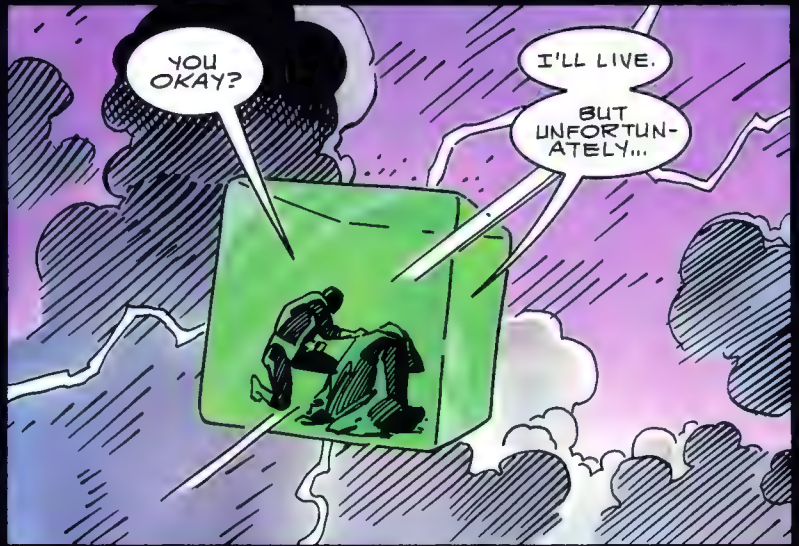
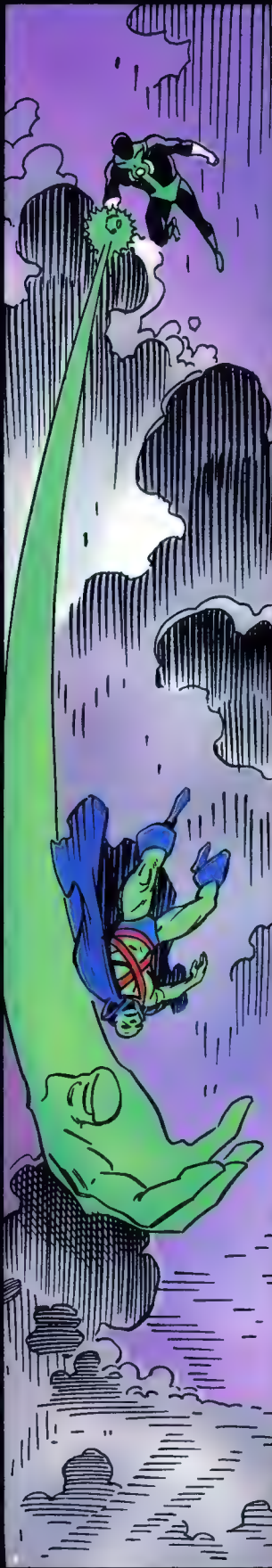
WHOA!



THIS
SUCKER
JUST
MISSED
ME BY A
HAIR!



J'ONNN!!



I THINK OUR
BEST BET IS TO
GO THE REST OF THE
WAY INSIDE THIS
**PROTECTIVE
CUBE.**



YOU'LL GET
NO ARGUMENT
ON THAT IDEA,
JOHN STEWART.

EARTH.

I HAVE OUTFITTED
MISTER FORAGER
ACCORDING TO YOUR
INSTRUCTIONS,
MASTER
BATMAN.

THANK YOU,
ALFRED.

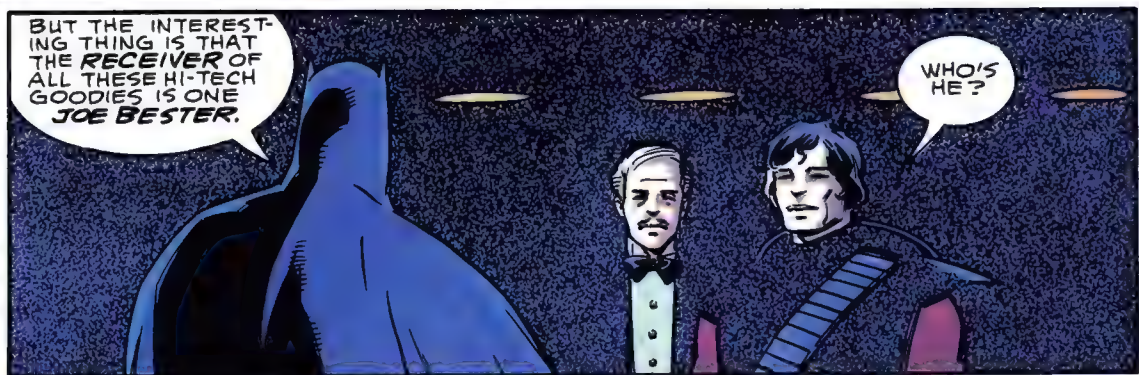
HOW YOU
DOING?

I'VE DIS-
COVERED THE
ANTI-LIFE ASPECT'S
WHEREABOUTS. IT
WASN'T HARD.

I SIMPLY
ACCESSED THE
COMPUTER RECORDS
OF ALL THE BIG SCIENTIFIC
SUPPLY HOUSES,
LOOKING FOR LARGE
ORDERS OF **EXOTIC
EQUIPMENT.**

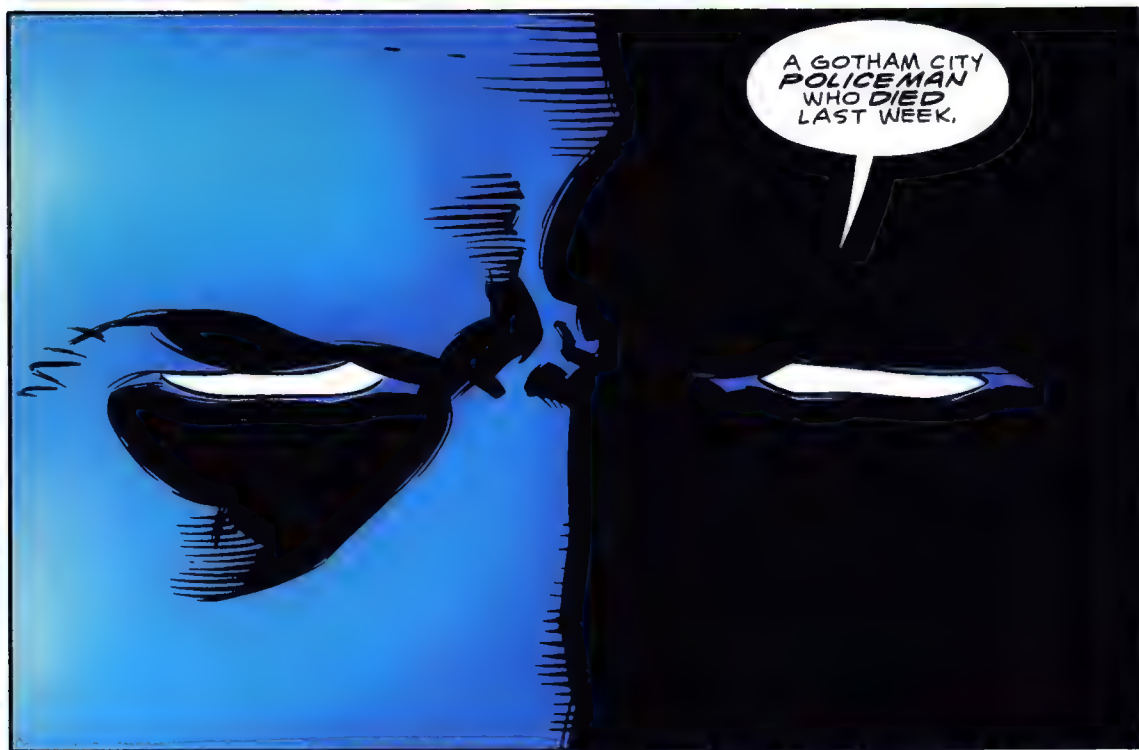
FOUND WHAT I
WAS LOOKING
FOR A LITTLE
WHILE AGO.

SEVERAL GOOD-
SIZED ORDERS
HAVE BEEN
SHIPPED OUT
IN THE LAST
WEEK TO
**MOOSEJAW,
ARIZONA,**
OF ALL PLACES.



BUT THE INTERESTING THING IS THAT THE **RECEIVER** OF ALL THESE HI-TECH GOODIES IS ONE **JOE BESTER**.

WHO'S HE?



A GOTHAM CITY **POLICEMAN** WHO **DIED** LAST WEEK.

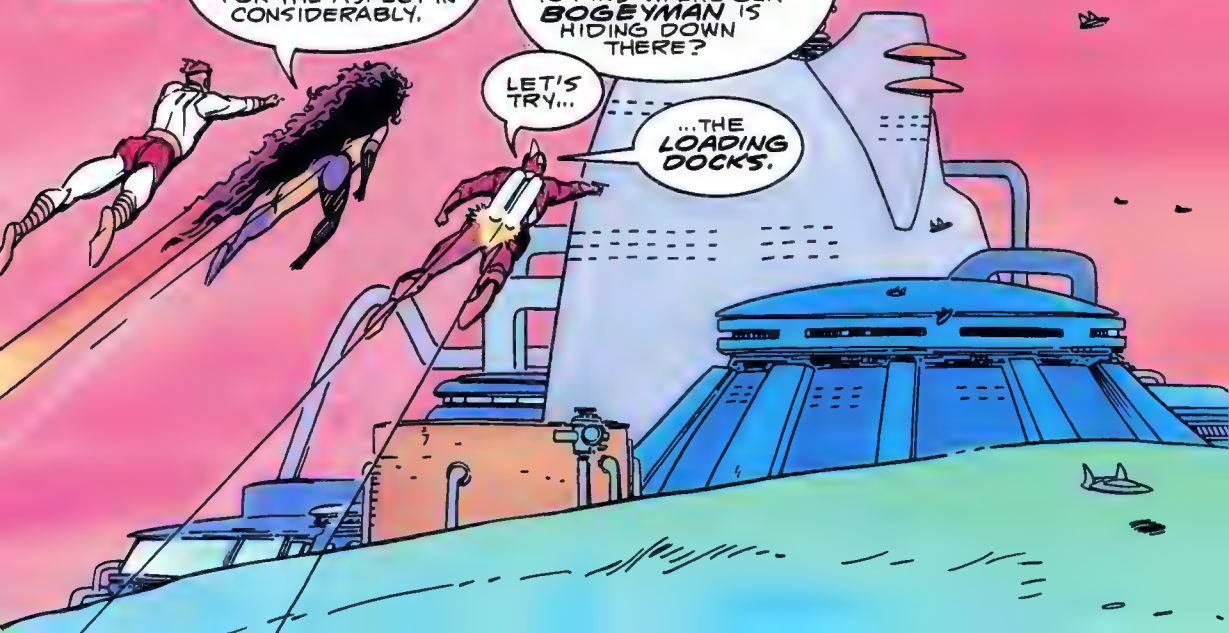
RANN.

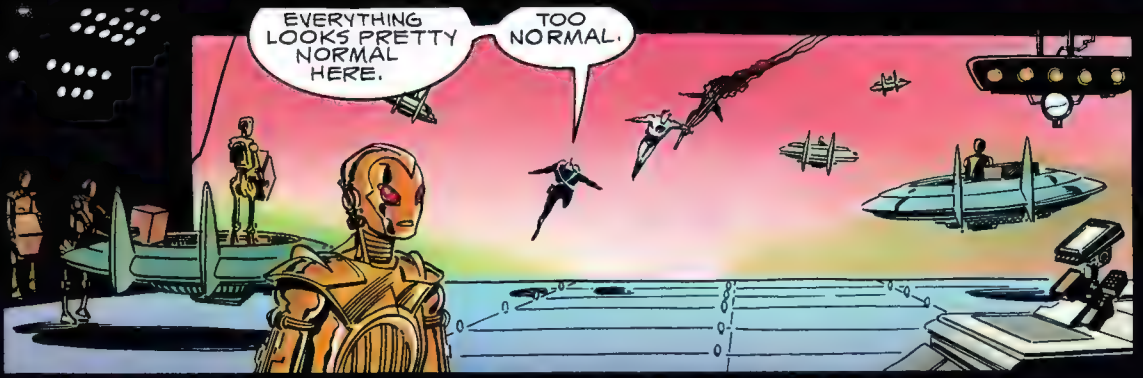
WELL, YOU'VE **CUT DOWN** THE AREA WE HAVE TO SEARCH FOR THE ASPECT IN CONSIDERABLY.

BUT THIS PLACE IS **GIGANTIC**, ADAM. YOU GOT ANY IDEAS ON HOW TO FIND WHERE OUR **BOGEYMAN** IS HIDING DOWN THERE?

LET'S TRY...

...THE **LOADING DOCKS**.





EVERYTHING
LOOKS PRETTY
NORMAL
HERE.

TOO
NORMAL.



WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?

TO CHECK THE
PLANT'S **PRO-
DUCTION** AND
SHIPMENT
RECORDS.



WELL?

THE RECORDS SHOW
THAT SOME VERY
UNORTHODOX
EQUIPMENT
WAS ORDERED AND
MANUFACTURED
HERE LAST
WEEK.

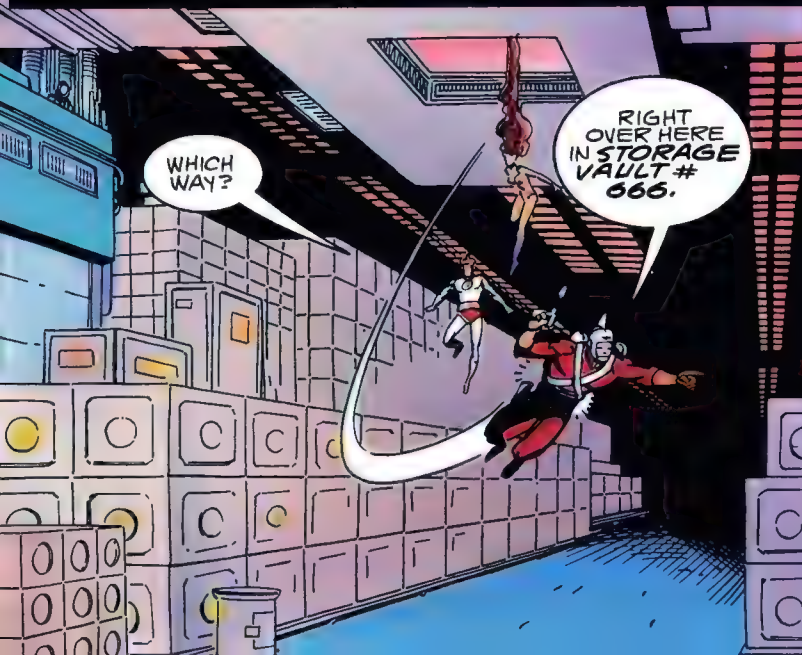


THE SHIPPING FILES
SHOW THAT THE
ORDER WAS DE-
LIVERED **IMMEDI-
ATELY** AFTER
PRODUCTION.

SHIPPED
WHERE?



TO THE
BASEMENT
OF THIS VERY
BUILDING!



WHICH
WAY?

RIGHT
OVER HERE
IN **STORAGE**
VAULT #
666.



CHANCES
ARE YOUR
TARGET IS
JUST ON THE
OTHER
SIDE
OF THIS
DOOR.

YOU
BOTH
READY
?

LET'S
DO IT!



WHAT
THE...

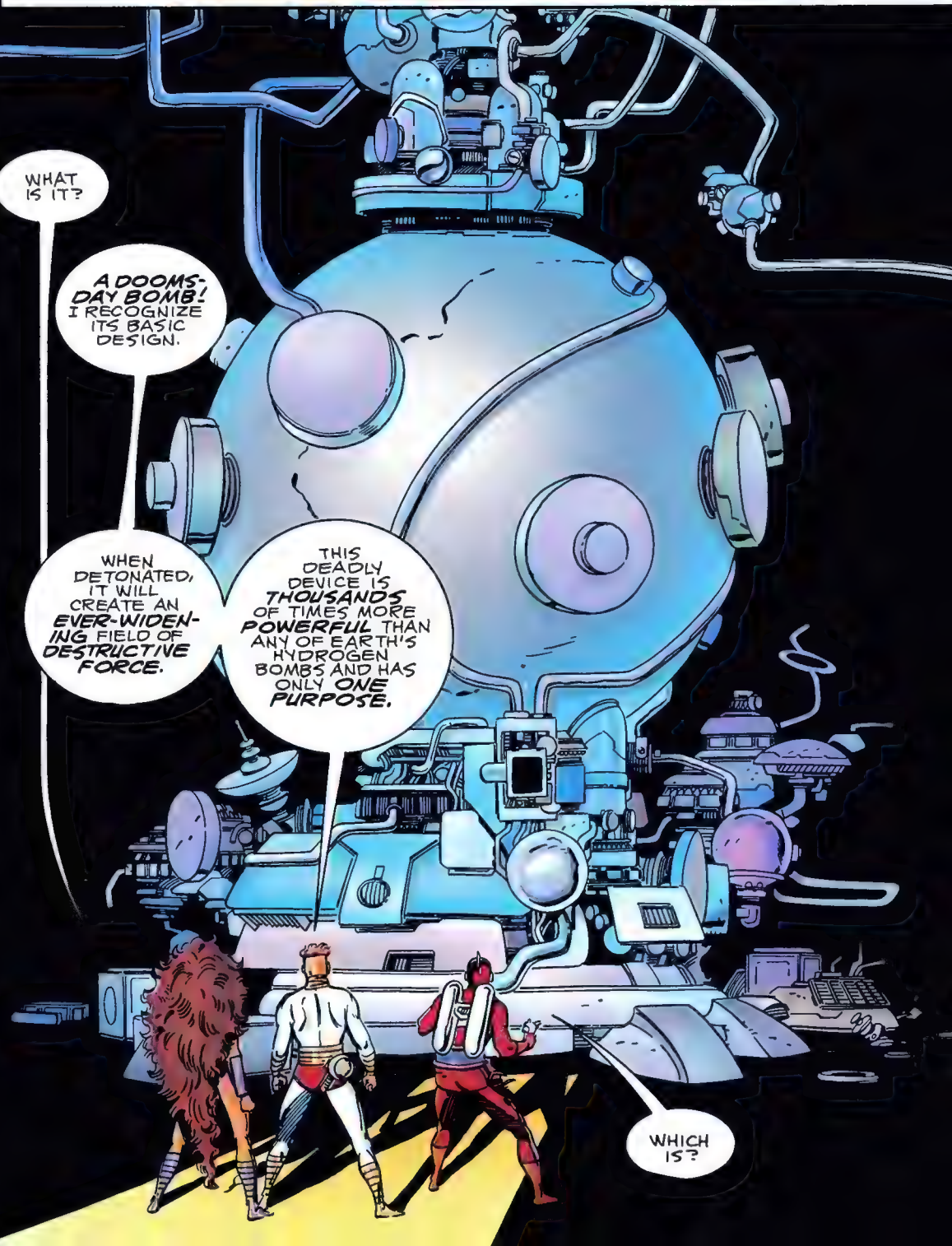
WHAT
IS IT?

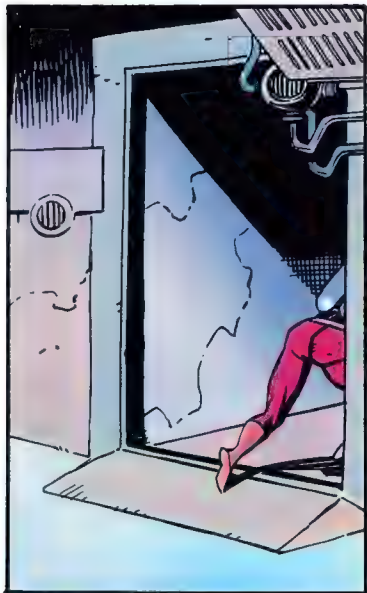
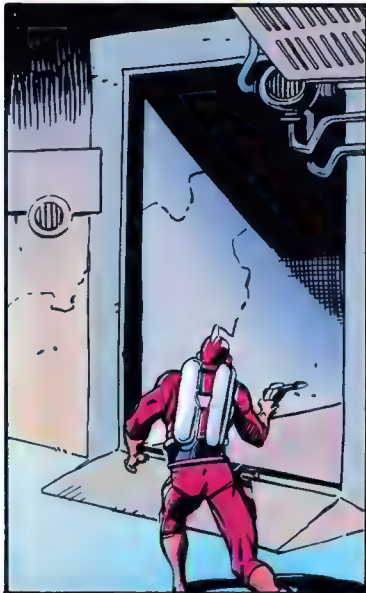
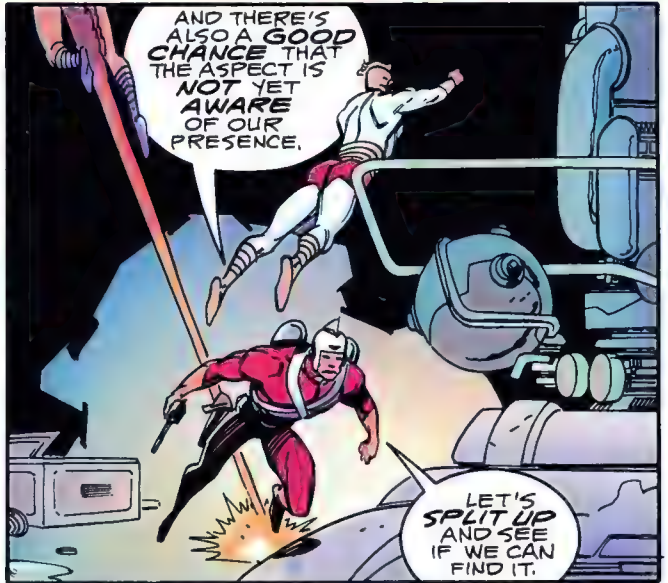
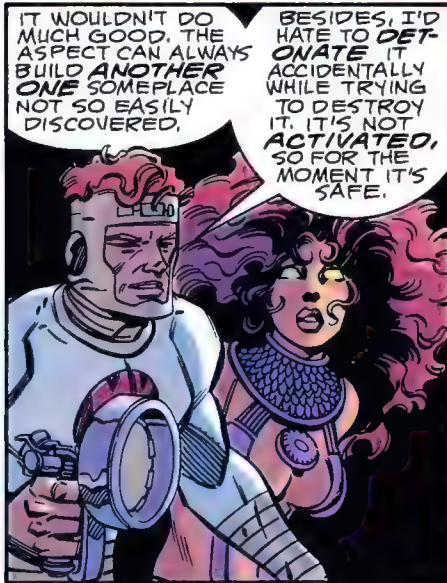
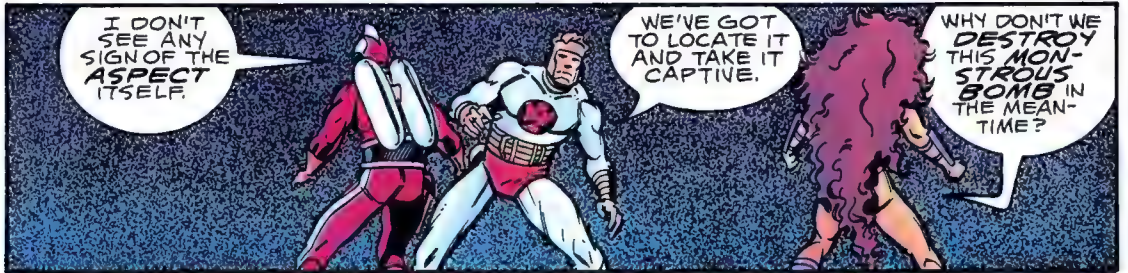
A DOOMS-
DAY BOMB!
I RECOGNIZE
ITS BASIC
DESIGN.

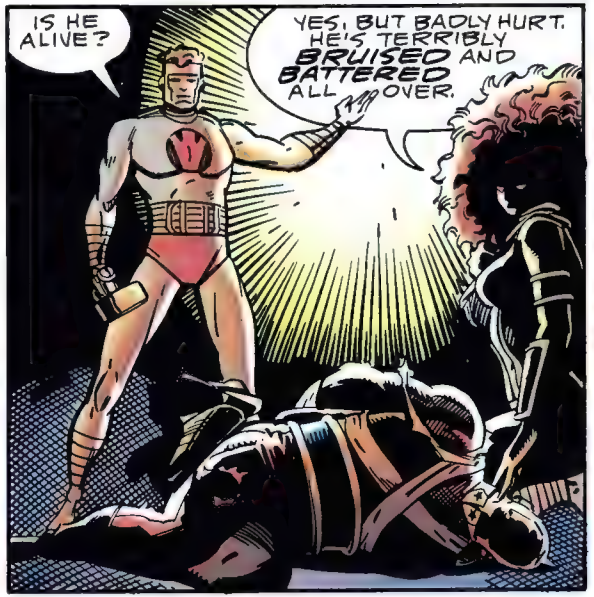
WHEN
DETONATED,
IT WILL
CREATE AN
EVER-WIDEN-
ING FIELD OF
DESTRUCTIVE
FORCE.

THIS
DEADLY
DEVICE IS
THOUSANDS
OF TIMES MORE
POWERFUL THAN
ANY OF EARTH'S
HYDROGEN
BOMBS AND HAS
ONLY ONE
PURPOSE.

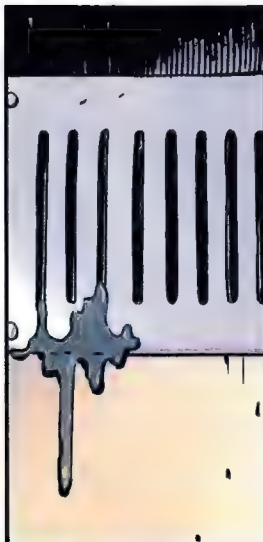
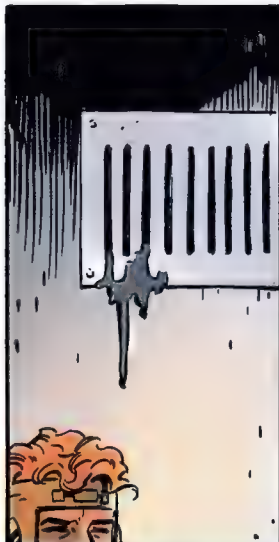
WHICH
IS?







I DON'T KNOW,
BUT WE'VE GOT
TO FIND IT.



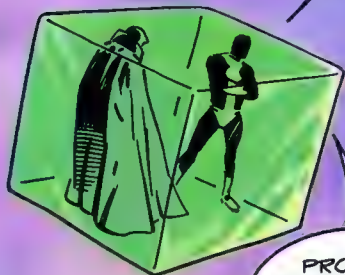
XANSHI.



MY **POWER RING** TELLS ME
THAT WE'RE LESS
THAN **FIFTY**
KILOMETERS
FROM THE WEATHER
CONTROL
STATION.

THE **ASPECT**
HASN'T THROWN
ANY **FOUL**
WEATHER AT US
FOR A WHILE...

LOOKS LIKE IT
FINALLY REALIZED
IT WAS A **WASTE**
OF TIME.



PROBABLY
SAVING ITSELF
FOR THE
FINAL SHOW-
DOWN.

YOU DON'T
SEEM TO BE
TAKING THIS
ASPECT TOO
SERIOUSLY
AS A FOE. THAT
WORRIES
ME.

WHY
SHOULD I?
LOOK WHAT IT'S
THROWN AGAINST
US SO FAR.

WAIT!
UP AHEAD!



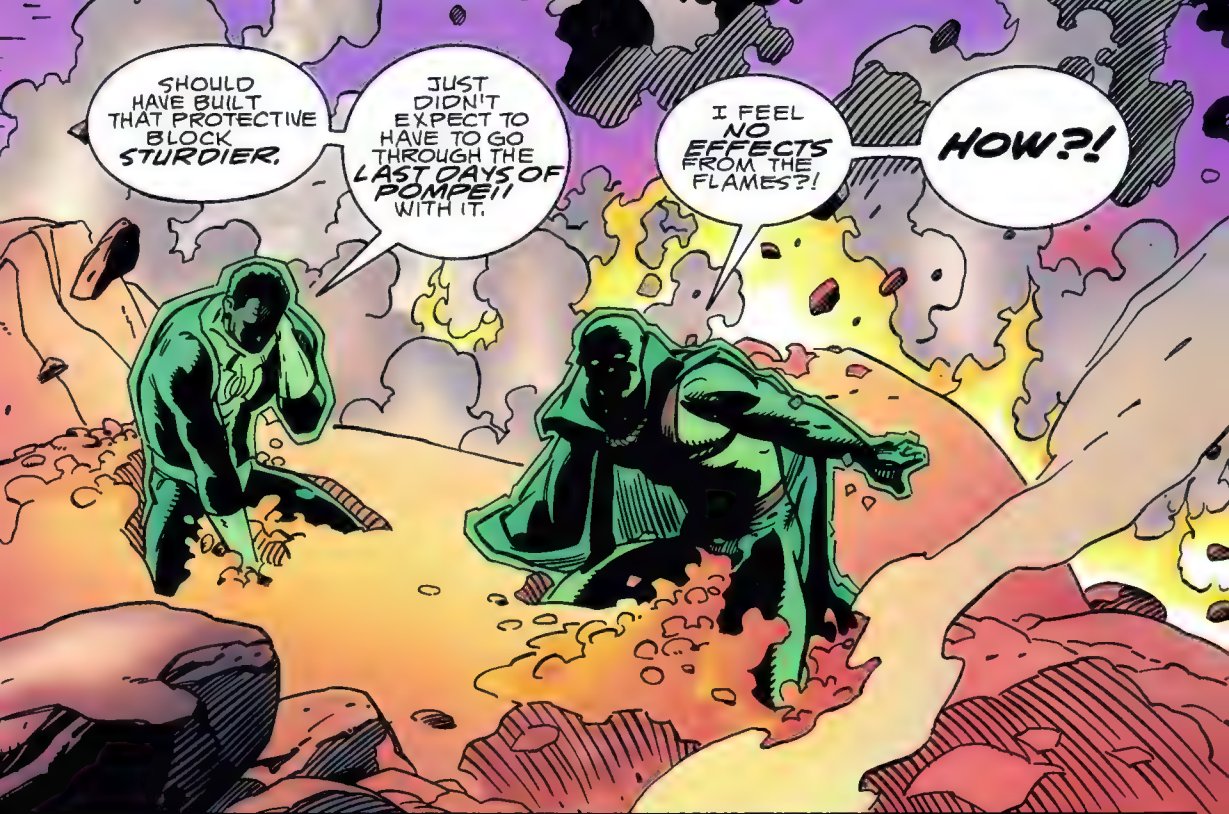


SHOULD
HAVE BUILT
THAT PROTECTIVE
BLOCK
STURDIER.

JUST
DIDN'T
EXPECT TO
HAVE TO GO
THROUGH THE
LAST DAYS OF
POMPEII
WITH IT.

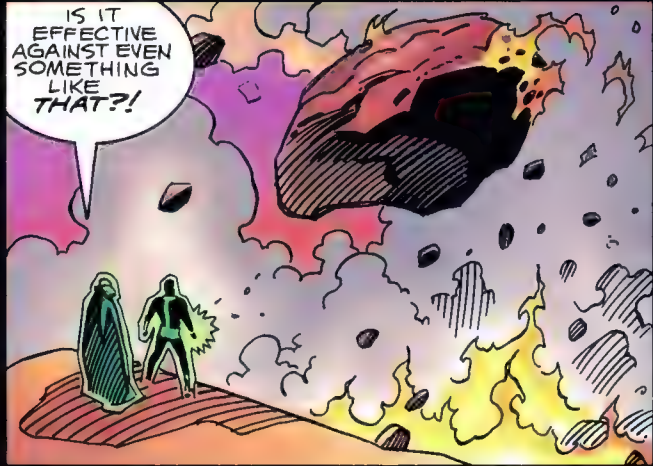
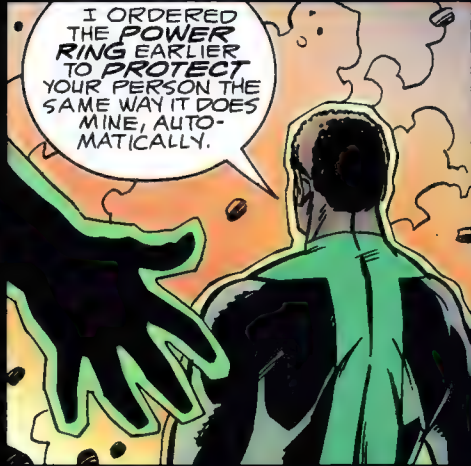
I FEEL
NO
EFFECTS
FROM THE
FLAMES?!

HOW?!



I ORDERED
THE **POWER**
RING EARLIER
TO **PROTECT**
YOUR PERSON THE
SAME WAY IT DOES
MINE, AUTO-
MATICALLY.

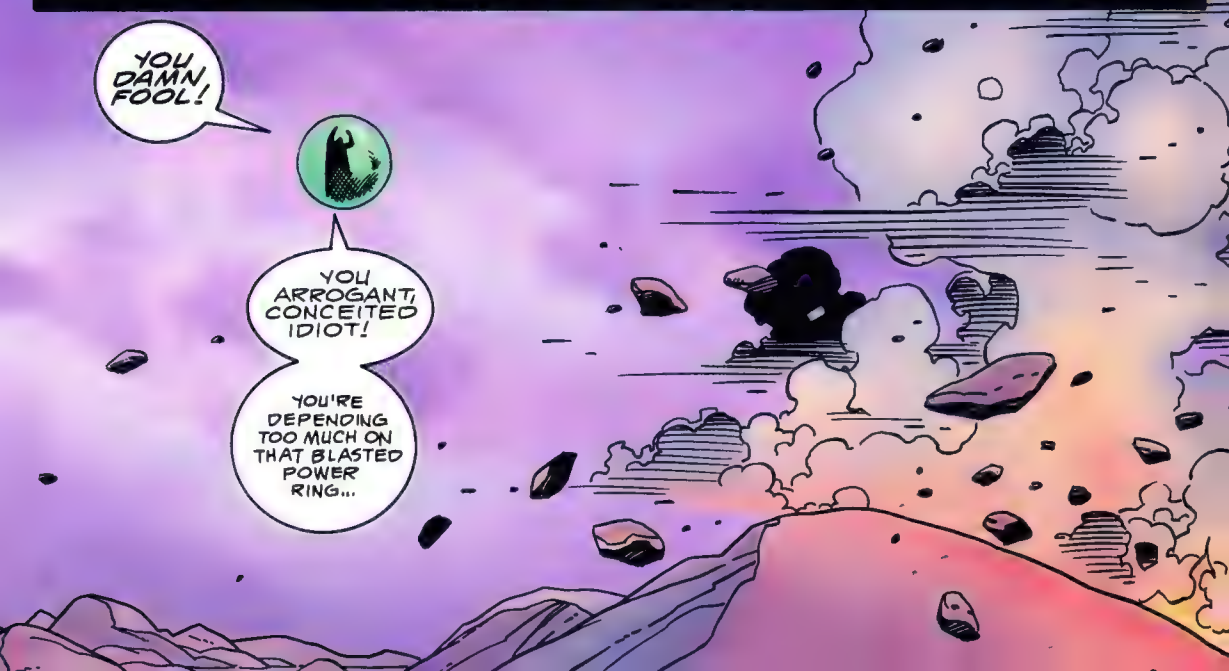
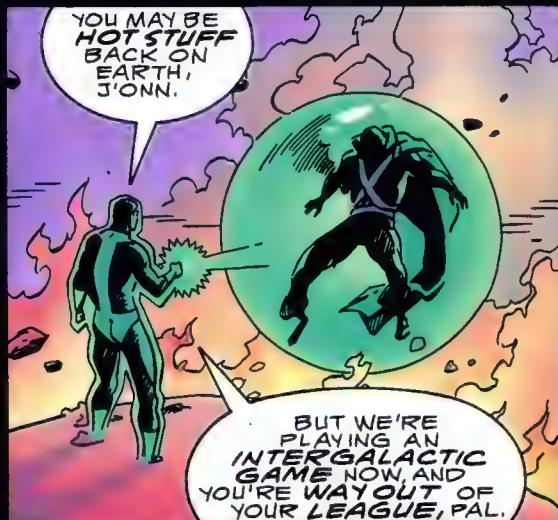
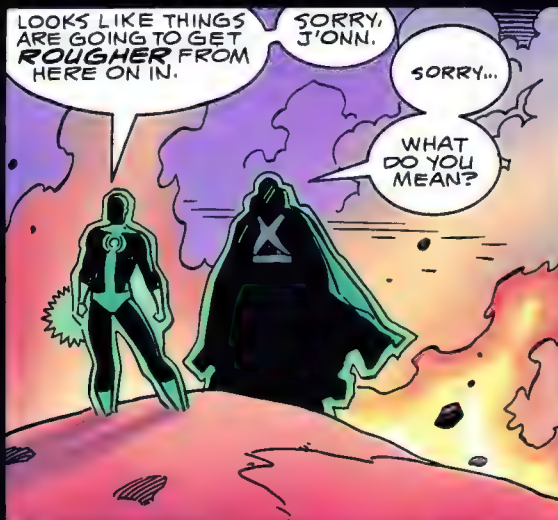
IS IT
EFFECTIVE
AGAINST EVEN
SOMETHING
LIKE
THAT?!

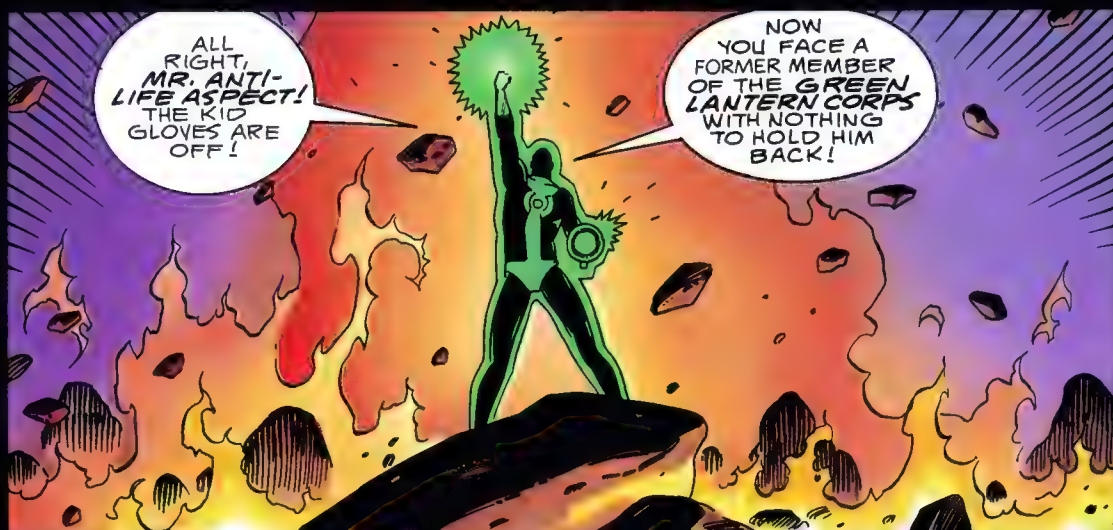


THAT
BABY'S JUST
SMALL
CHANGE TO
MY EMERALD
BEAUTY!



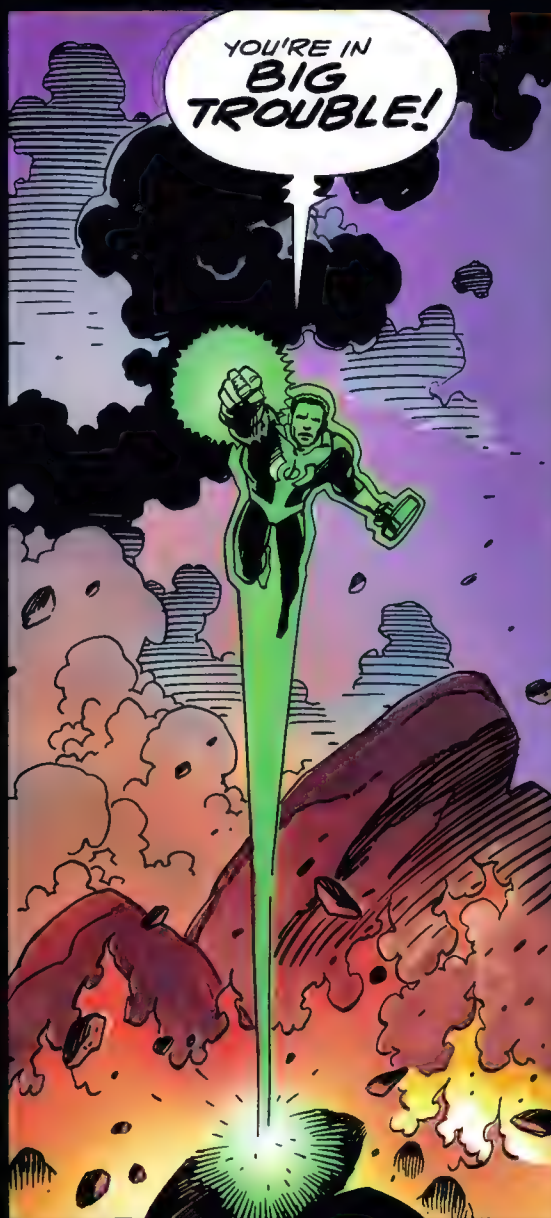
SHEE-BAAA!





ALL
RIGHT,
**MR. ANTI-
LIFE ASPECT!**
THE KID
GLOVES ARE
OFF!

NOW
YOU FACE A
FORMER MEMBER
OF THE **GREEN
LANTERN CORPS**
WITH NOTHING
TO HOLD HIM
BACK!



YOU'RE IN
**BIG
TROUBLE!**



YOU'VE
TAKEN ON A
GUY WHO'S GOT
ONE OF THE
GUARDIAN'S
**POWER
RINGS!**

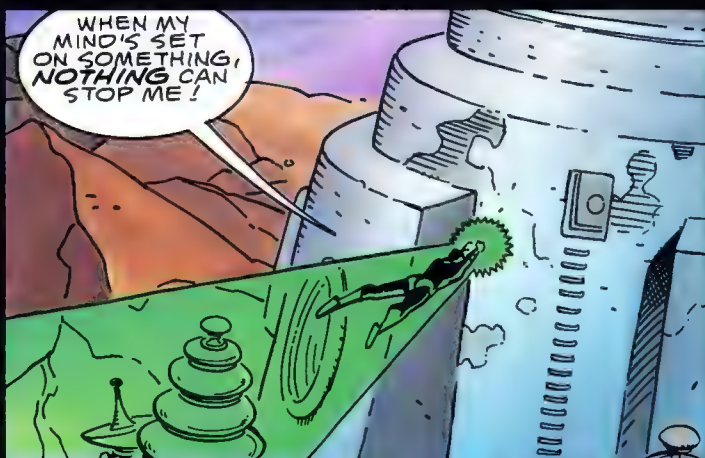
A POWER
RING'S THE
SINGLE MOST
**POWERFUL
WEAPON**
EVER CREATED
IN THIS
UNIVERSE.

ANY-
THING I
CAN IMAGINE
IS, IN THE
TWINKLING
OF AN
EYE!

THERE
ISN'T ANY-
THING
I CAN'T
DO!



WHEN MY
MIND'S SET
ON SOMETHING,
NOTHING CAN
STOP ME!

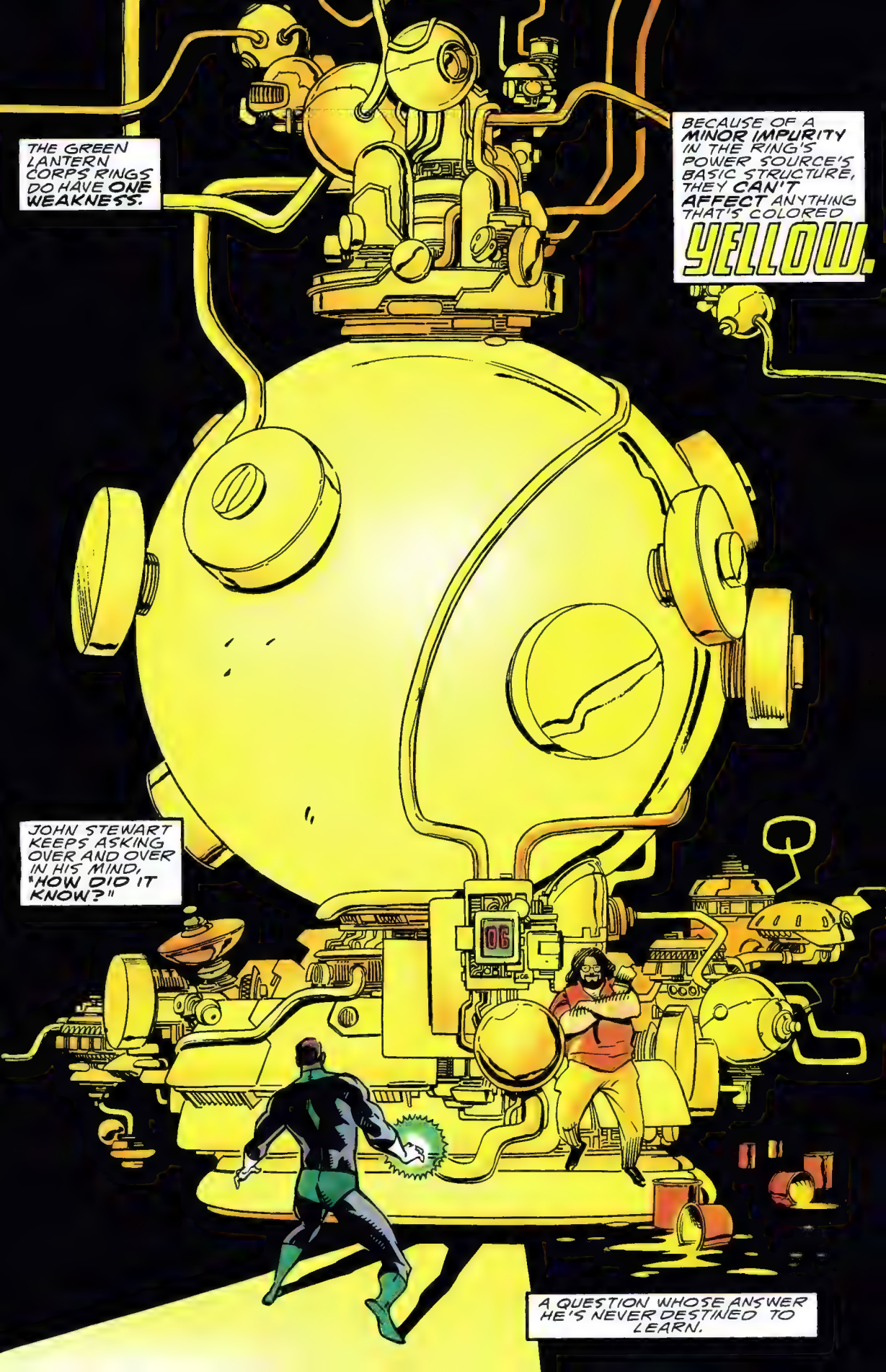


NOTHING!



WELL,
THAT'S NOT
EXACTLY
TRUE,
NOW,
IS IT?





THE GREEN
LANTERN
CORPS RINGS
DO HAVE ONE
WEAKNESS.

BECAUSE OF A
MINOR IMPURITY
IN THE RING'S
POWER SOURCE'S
BASIC STRUCTURE,
THEY CAN'T
AFFECT ANYTHING
THAT'S COLORED

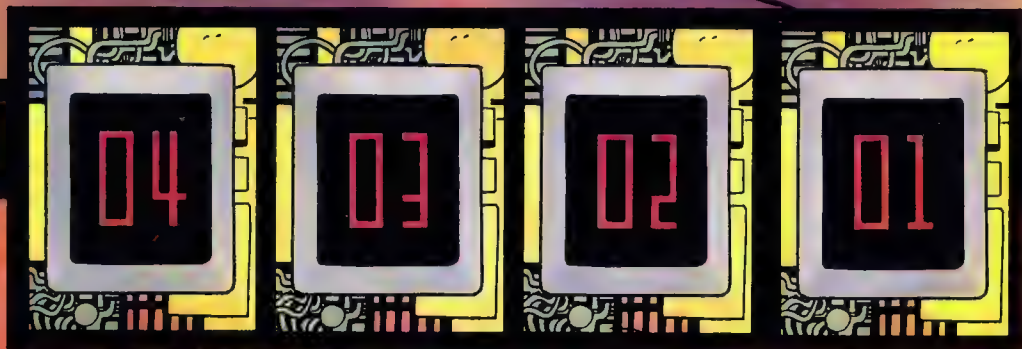
YELLOW.

JOHN STEWART
KEEPS ASKING
OVER AND OVER
IN HIS MIND,
"HOW DID IT
KNOW?"

A QUESTION WHOSE ANSWER
HE'S NEVER DESTINED TO
LEARN.

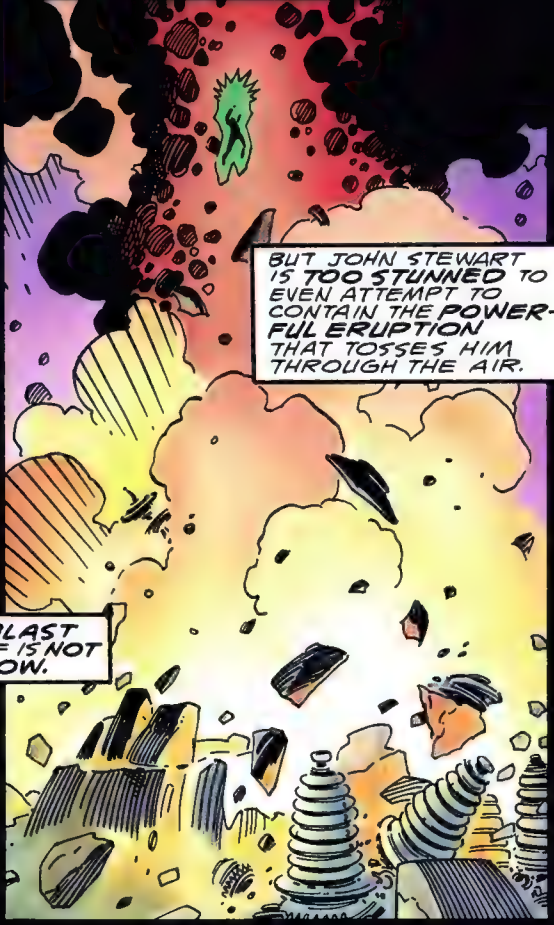
I...I...I...

J'ONN...



A Green Lantern in his green suit is flying through a massive explosion. Large pieces of debris are flying through the air around him. The background is a mix of orange, yellow, and purple, indicating intense heat and energy.

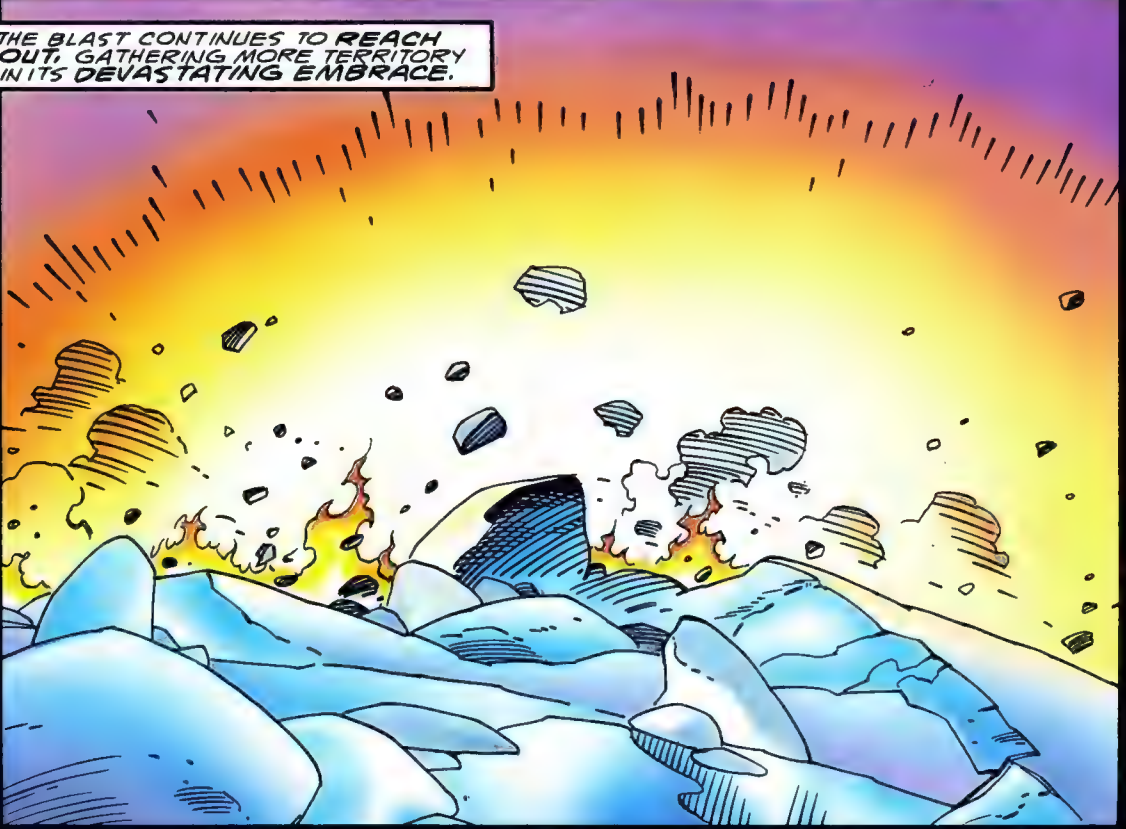
OF COURSE, GREEN LANTERN'S POWER RING AUTOMATICALLY PROTECTS HIM FROM THE EXPLOSION.

A large, powerful explosion is shown, with a massive plume of black smoke rising from the center. In the background, a small figure of Green Lantern is visible, having been tossed into the air by the blast. The foreground is filled with debris and a bright yellow and orange glow.

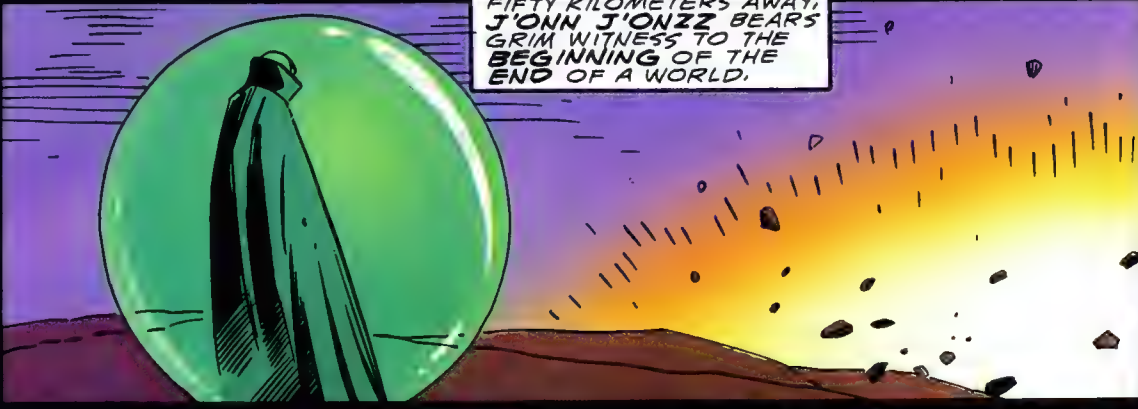
BUT JOHN STEWART IS TOO STUNNED TO EVEN ATTEMPT TO CONTAIN THE POWERFUL ERUPTION THAT TOSSES HIM THROUGH THE AIR.

Green Lantern is shown flying through a field of debris. He is holding a large, rectangular piece of debris in his right hand. The background is a bright yellow and orange glow, suggesting the intense heat of the explosion.

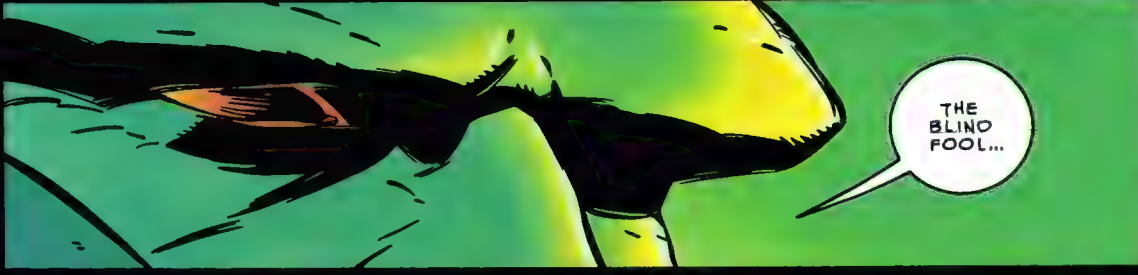
THE BLAST ITSELF IS NOT YELLOW.

A wide shot of the explosion's aftermath. The blast has reached out over a landscape, gathering more territory in its devastating embrace. The foreground is filled with large, jagged pieces of blue and white rock. The background is a bright yellow and orange glow, with a massive plume of black smoke rising from the center. The explosion is still reaching out, with debris flying through the air.

THE BLAST CONTINUES TO REACH OUT, GATHERING MORE TERRITORY IN ITS DEVASTATING EMBRACE.



FIFTY KILOMETERS AWAY,
J'ONN J'ONZZ BEARS
GRIM WITNESS TO THE
BEGINNING OF THE
END OF A WORLD.



THE
BLIND
FOOL...



THE MARTIAN MANHUNTER
HAS NO FURTHER CHANCE
TO VOICE HIS FRUS-
TRATION.

FOR IN THE NEXT
SECOND, THE
HOLOCAUST EN-
GULFS HIM LIKE A
FIERY TIDAL
WAVE.



BUT EVEN AT THIS DISTANCE, GREEN LANTERN'S MARVELOUS POWER RING REACHES OUT TO PROTECT THE LAST MARTIAN FROM THE DESTRUCTION THAT SURROUNDS HIM.

ANOTHER 200 KILOMETERS SOUTH, KILLATUS, XANSHI'S MOST NORTHERN CITY, AWAITS ITS DOOM.



SOMETHING IN THE AIR WARNS ITS CITIZENS OF THE TERRIBLE FATE THAT COMES THEIR WAY...



... ONLY MOMENTS BEFORE THE BLAST HITS.



MOST DIE INSTANTLY, IMMEDIATELY INCINERATED BY THE FIERY FORCE THAT ENGULFS THEM.

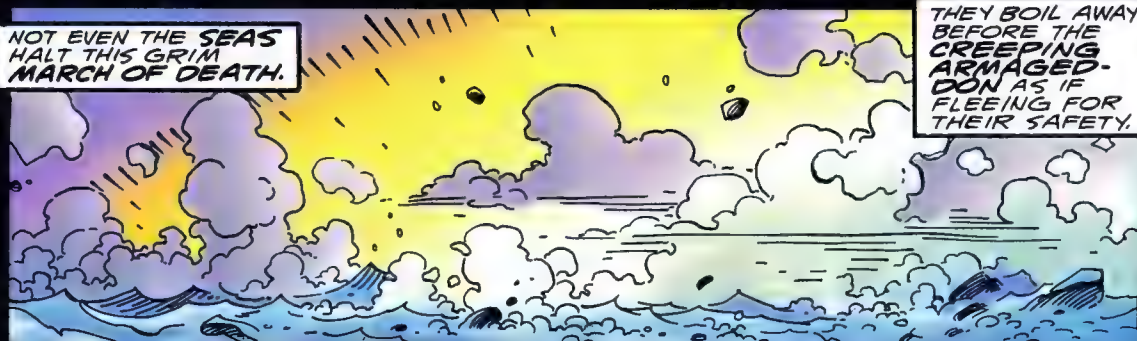


BUT SOME ARE, UNFORTUNATELY,
PROTECTED FROM THE INITIAL
DESTRUCTION BY THE **STRUC-
TURES** THEY STAND WITHIN.

THESE POOR SOULS
SPEND INFINITE
SECONDS DYING
AS THEY BREATHE
IN THE **SCALDING**
FLAMES THEIR
AIR HAS BECOME.

THE DESTRUCTION
CONTINUES UNABATED
AS THE **SPHERE** OF
DOOM EXTENDS
OUTWARD IN AN EVER
INCREASINGLY
HUNGRY WAVE.

NOT EVEN THE SEAS
HALT THIS GRIM
MARCH OF DEATH.



THEY BOIL AWAY
BEFORE THE
CREEPING
ARMAGED-
DON AS IF
FLEEING FOR
THEIR SAFETY.

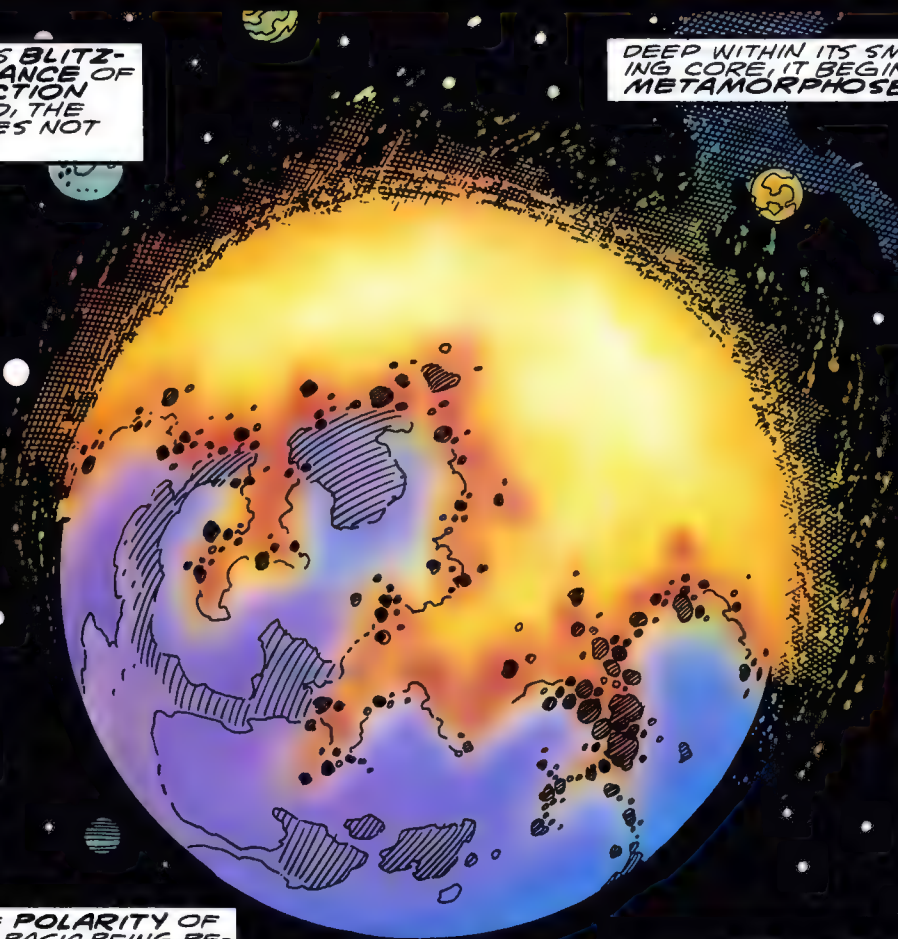
TEN SHORT SECONDS AFTER
ITS CATAclysmic BIRTH, THE
JUGGERNAUT OF DEVASTATION
HALTS ITS MERCILESS AD-
VANCE.



HALF THE PLANET IT HAS
NOW CLAIMED. HALF A
WORLD RESTS WITHIN ITS
SEARING PRESENCE.

THOUGH ITS BLITZ-
KRIEG DANCE OF
DESTRUCTION
HAS ENDED, THE
DOOM DOES NOT
REST.

DEEP WITHIN ITS SMOLDER-
ING CORE, IT BEGINS TO
METAMORPHOSE.



THE POLARITY OF
ITS BASIC BEING BE-
GINS TO REVERSE
ITSELF.

ITS HEART BECOMES
ANTI-MATTER.



THIS CAUSES A SECONDARY
EXPLOSION THAT BLOWS
THE DOOMED PLANET OUT
OF ITS ORBIT.

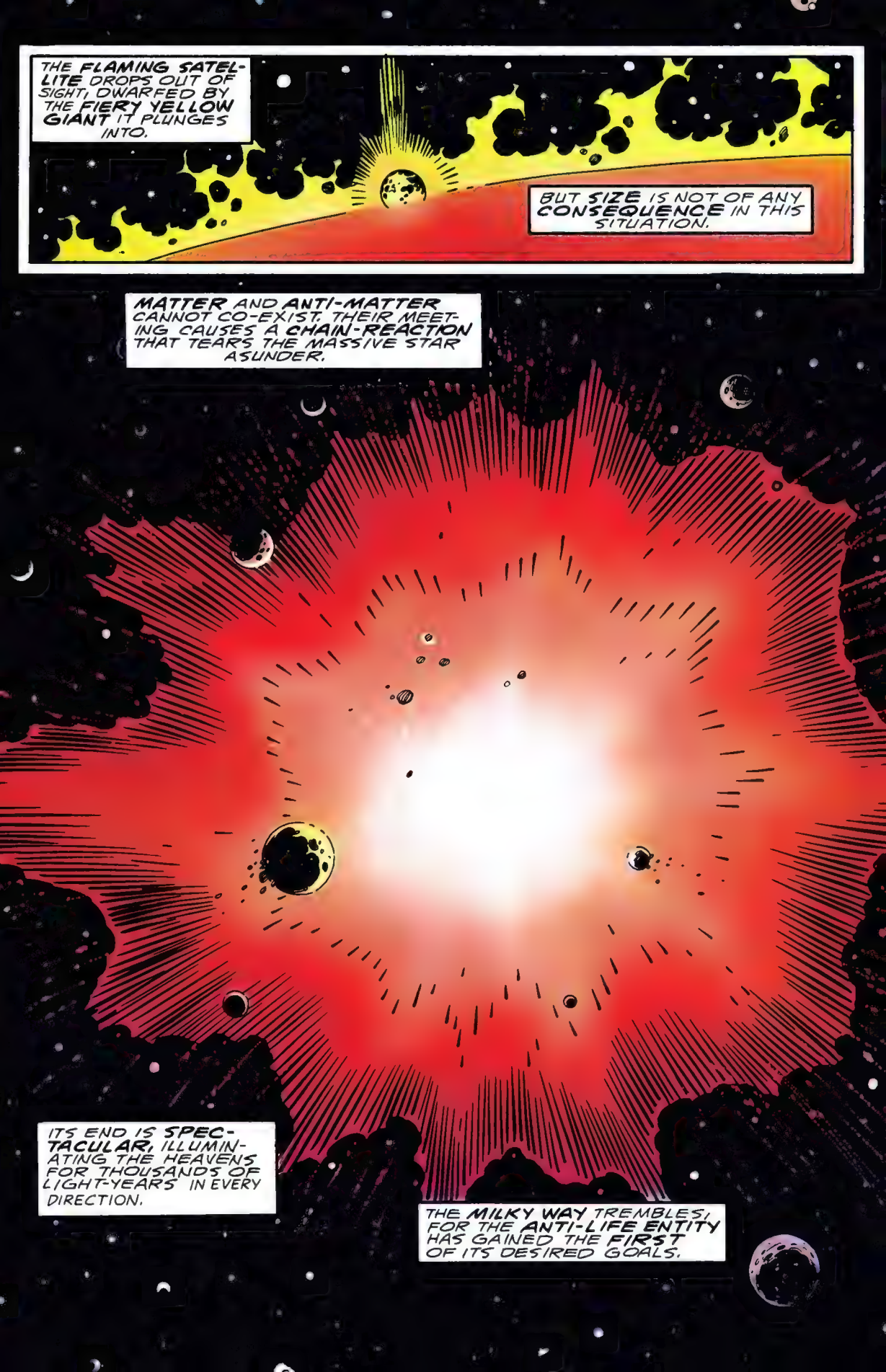


IT STREAKS
ACROSS THE
HEAVENS LIKE
A MAD
ANGEL OF
DEATH.

THE ANTI-MATTER
HEART ENGULFS
THE REST OF THE
WORLD IN ITS UNDENI-
ABLE TRANSFORMA-
TION.



CHANGED INTO SOMETHING
THAT SHOULDN'T BE ABLE
TO EXIST IN THIS REALITY.
THE FIERY TOMB OF
MILLIONS OF XANSHIANS
DIVES TOWARD THE STAR
THAT GAVE IT LIFE FOR
SO MANY UNTOLD EONS.



THE FLAMING SATELLITE DROPS OUT OF SIGHT, DWARFED BY THE FIERY YELLOW GIANT IT PLUNGES INTO.

BUT SIZE IS NOT OF ANY CONSEQUENCE IN THIS SITUATION.

MATTER AND ANTI-MATTER CANNOT CO-EXIST. THEIR MEETING CAUSES A CHAIN-REACTION THAT TEARS THE MASSIVE STAR ASUNDER.

ITS END IS SPECTACULAR, ILLUMINATING THE HEAVENS FOR THOUSANDS OF LIGHT-YEARS IN EVERY DIRECTION.

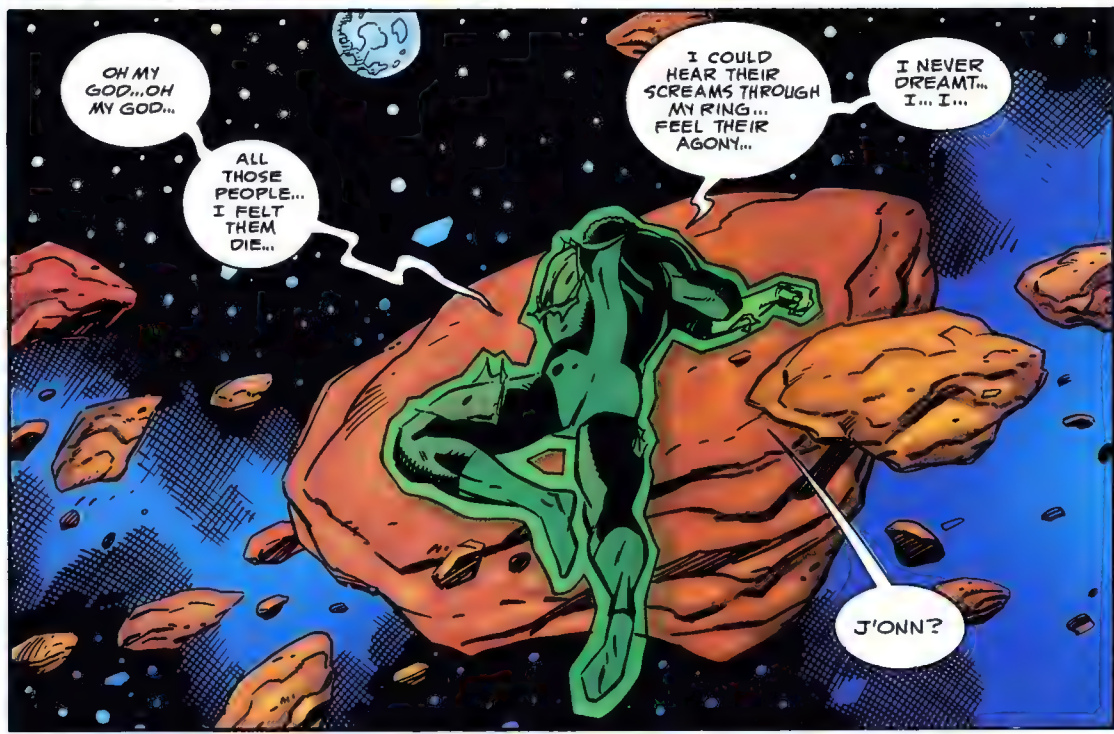
THE MILKY WAY TREMBLES, FOR THE ANTI-LIFE ENTITY HAS GAINED THE FIRST OF ITS DESIRED GOALS.



BUT AS IN ALL NIGHT-
MARES, THERE ARE
SURVIVORS. THERE
MUST ALWAYS BE
SURVIVORS.

SOMEONE HAS
TO REMAIN BE-
HIND TO TELL
THE TALES OF
WARNING.

SOMEONE HAS TO ENDURE SO
THAT THEY CAN RELIVE THE
HORROR FOR THE REST
OF THEIR DAYS.



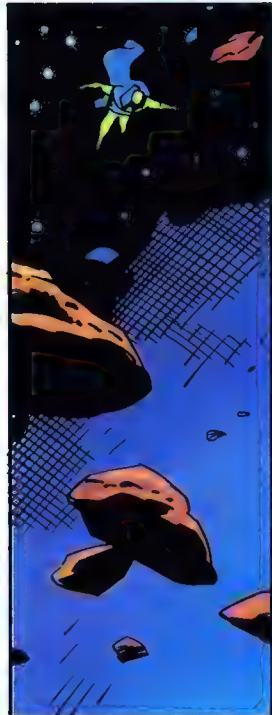
OH MY
GOD...OH
MY GOD...

ALL
THOSE
PEOPLE...
I FELT
THEM
DIE...

I COULD
HEAR THEIR
SCREAMS THROUGH
MY RING...
FEEL THEIR
AGONY...

I NEVER
DREAMT...
I... I...

J'ONN?



I... I
NEVER...

THANKS TO YOUR **ARROGANCE** AND **STUPIDITY**, I HAVE NOW SEEN TWO WORLDS DIE.

BUT I THOUGHT I COULD HANDLE IT...

DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD KNOW ABOUT THE RING'S VULNERABILITY TO YELLOW...

I WOULD HAVE... I SHOULD... I... I...

I WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR THIS.

JOHN...

...SHUT UP.

JUST SHUT UP.



THE XANSHI
TEAM JUST
RADIOED
IN.

WE'VE LOST
BOTH THE
PLANET
AND THE
STAR.

THEN WE CAN
WAIT NO
LONGER TO
IMPLEMENT
OUR PLAN.

NO... I SUP-
POSE NOT.
IT'S JUST
THAT I
WANTED TO
GIVE JASON
AS MUCH
TIME AS
POSSIBLE
BEFORE...

I'LL READY
ETRIGAN
AND THE
INSTRUMENTA-
TION.

YOU GET
BLOOD.

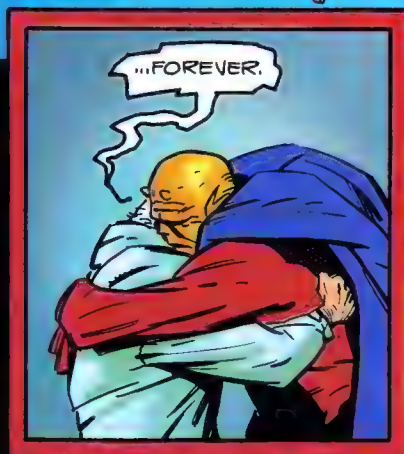
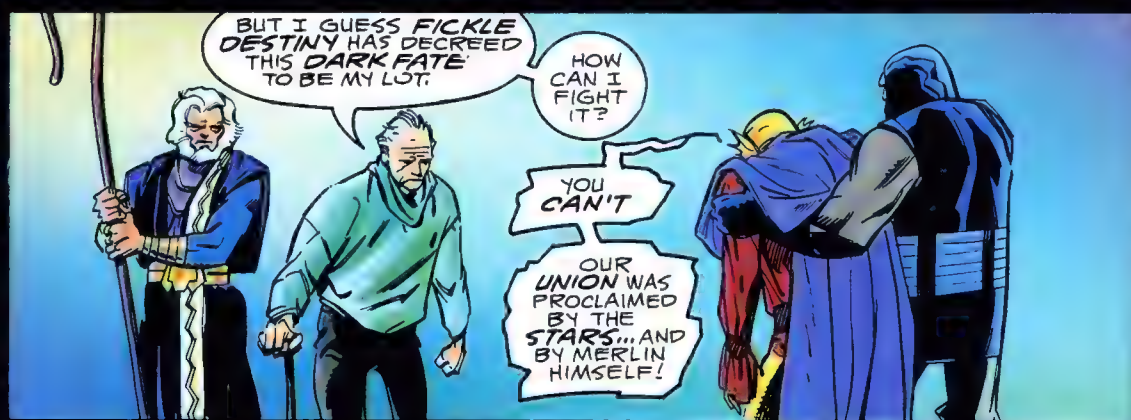
YOU
KNOW, WHEN
I REUNITE
WITH ETRIGAN,
THESE FLOWERS
WON'T SMELL
THE SAME.

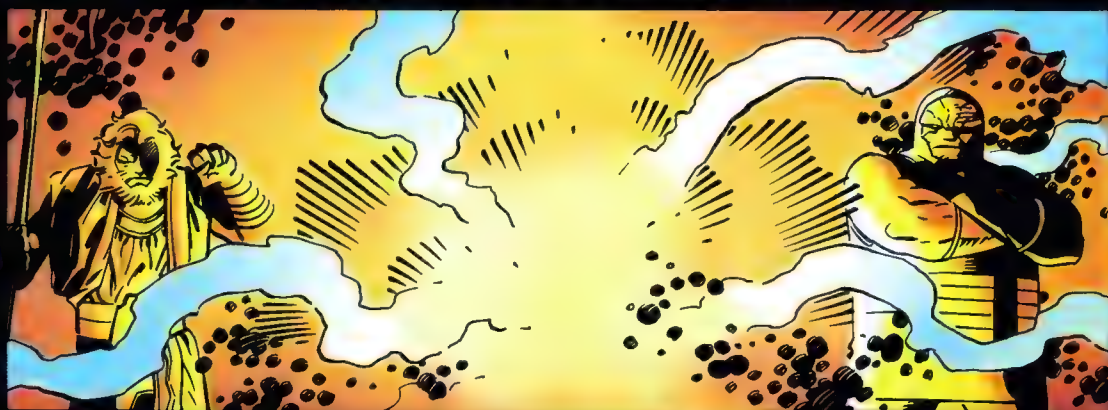
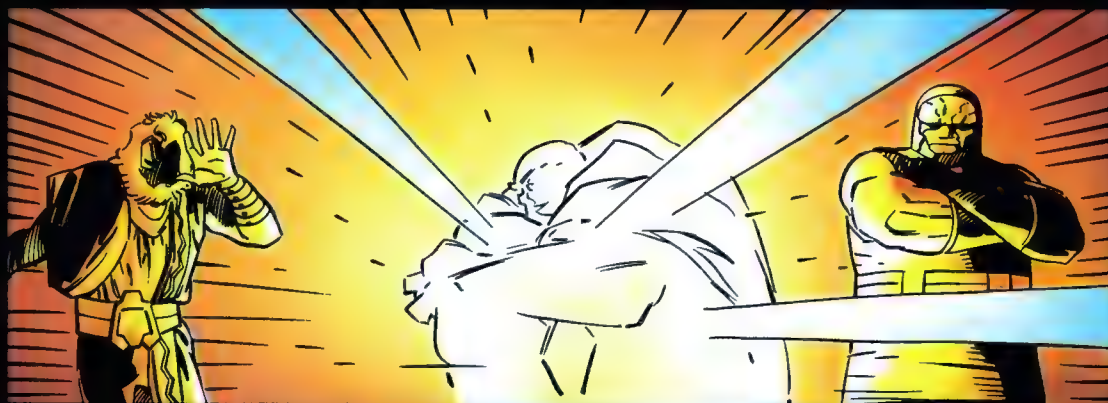
I NEVER
APPRECIATED
THEIR FRAGRANCE
WHILE I WAS
COUPLED
WITH HIM.

OUR
TIME
DRAWS
SHORT.

WE
MUST
ACT
NOW.

VERY
WELL.





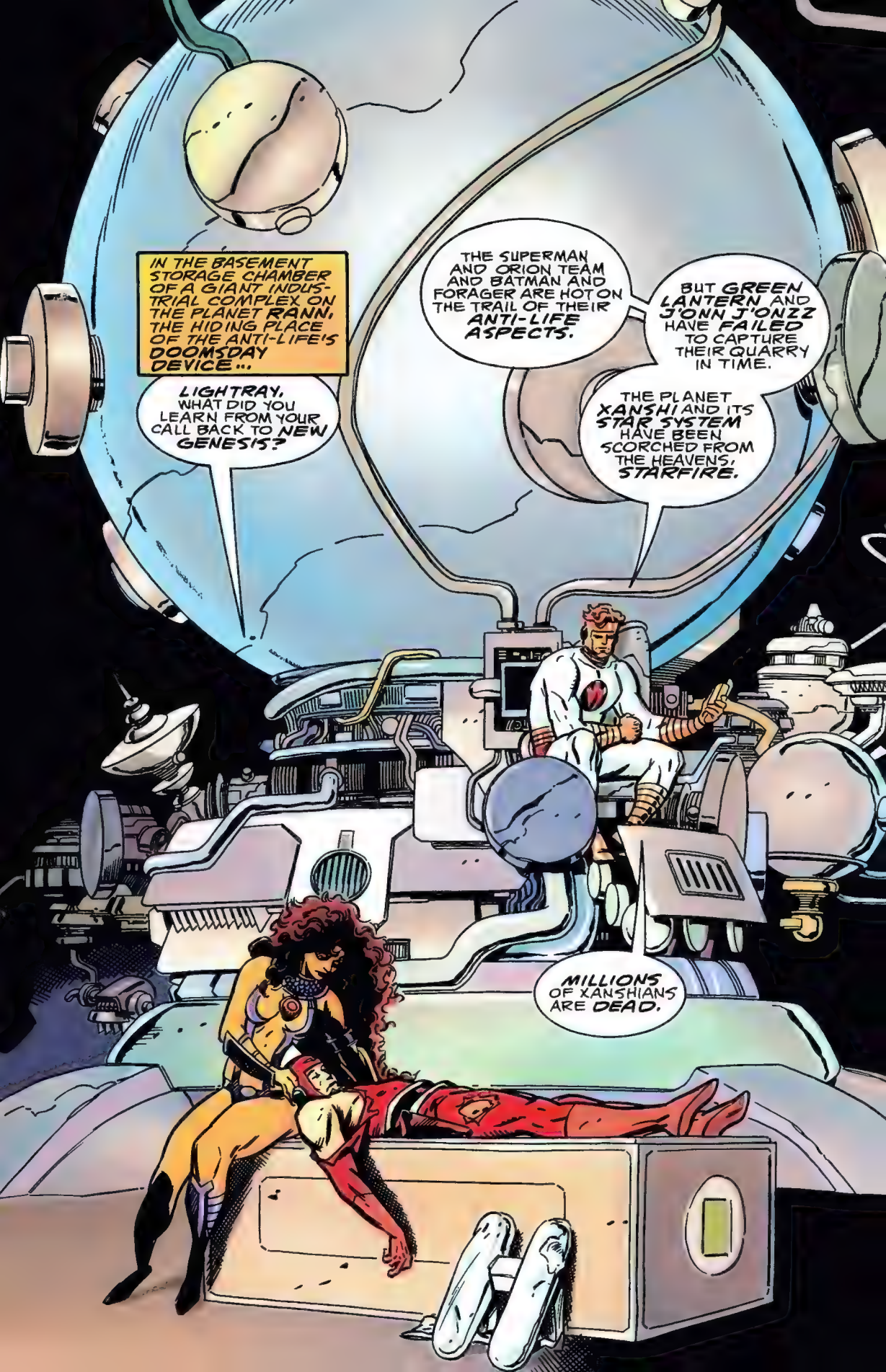
LET MEN
TREMBLE AND
THE HEAVENS
CRY OUT IN
ALARM!

FOR
DARKSEID
HAS FREED ME
FROM THAT
DAMNABLE
CHARM!

ETRIGAN THE
DEMON
LIVES AGAIN!

...AND
MAY THE
ELDER
GODS
FORGIVE
US.





IN THE BASEMENT
STORAGE CHAMBER
OF A GIANT INDUS-
TRIAL COMPLEX ON
THE PLANET RANN,
THE HIDING PLACE
OF THE ANTI-LIFE'S
DOOMSDAY
DEVICE...

LIGHTRAY,
WHAT DID YOU
LEARN FROM YOUR
CALL BACK TO NEW
GENESIS?

THE SUPERMAN
AND ORION TEAM
AND BATMAN AND
FORAGER ARE HOT ON
THE TRAIL OF THEIR
ANTI-LIFE
ASPECTS.

BUT GREEN
LANTERN AND
JOHN J'ONZZ
HAVE FAILED
TO CAPTURE
THEIR QUARRY
IN TIME.

THE PLANET
XANSHI AND ITS
STAR SYSTEM
HAVE BEEN
SCORCHED FROM
THE HEAVENS,
STARFIRE.

MILLIONS
OF XANSHIANS
ARE DEAD.



HOW
GHASTLY...

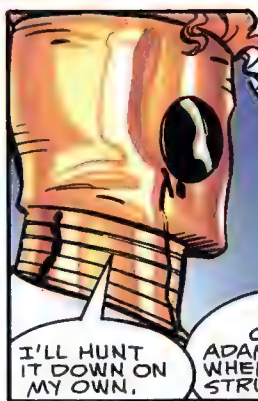
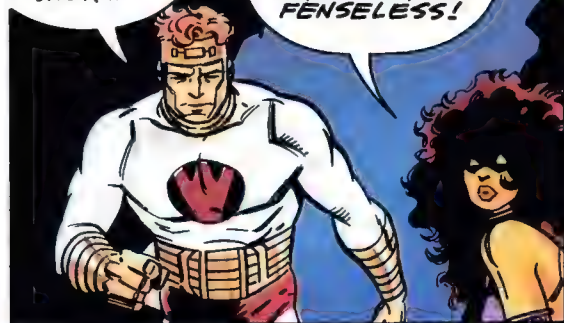
HOW IS
ADAM
STRANGE?

STILL UN-
CONSCIOUS.
HE'LL BE OF
NO FURTHER
HELP.

THEN IT'S
UP TO US ALONE
TO STOP RANN'S
ANTI-LIFE ASPECT
FROM DESTROYING
THIS SOLAR
SYSTEM.

THEN LET US
GET TO IT!
TIME DRAWS
SHORT.

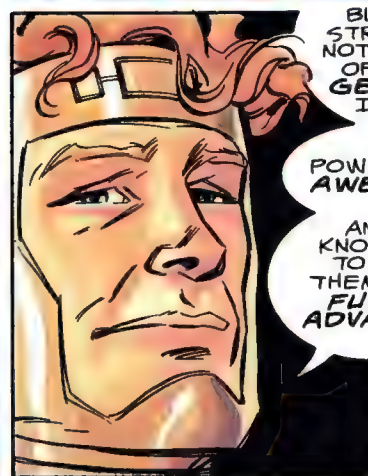
BUT WE CAN'T
JUST LEAVE ADAM
ALONE HERE, UN-
CONSCIOUS, DE-
FENSELESS!



THEN YOU STAY AND
GUARD AGAINST THE
ASPECT RETURNING
TO ACTIVATE ITS
DOOMSDAY
BOMB.

I'LL HUNT
IT DOWN ON
MY OWN.

TREAD
CAREFULLY.
ADAM WAS ALONE
WHEN THE ASPECT
STRUCK HIM DOWN.



BUT ADAM
STRANGE IS
NOT A GOD
OF NEW
GENESIS.
I AM.

MY
POWERS ARE
AWESOME.

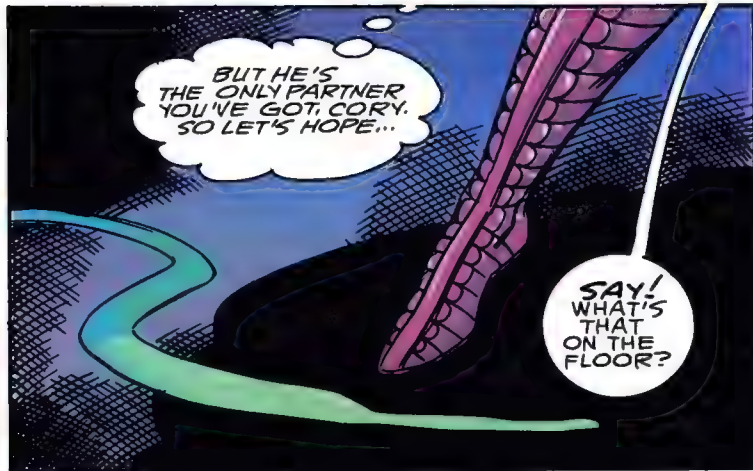
AND I
KNOW HOW
TO USE
THEM TO THEIR
FULLEST
ADVANTAGE.



I SURE
HOPE SO,
PAL.



WHAT A
CONCEITED
ASS...



BUT HE'S
THE ONLY PARTNER
YOU'VE GOT, CORY.
SO LET'S HOPE...

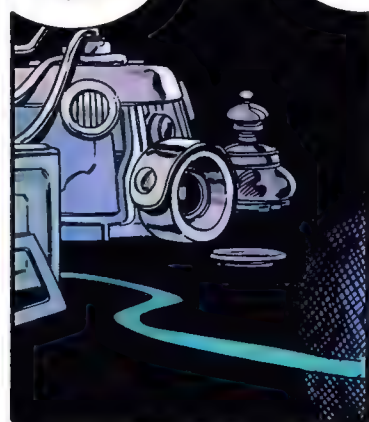
SAY!
WHAT'S
THAT
ON THE
FLOOR?

LOOKS LIKE
SOME TYPE
OF **PROTO-
PLASMIC
OOZE?**

FUNNY
I DIDN'T
NOTICE IT
BEFORE...

I WONDER
WHERE IT'S
COMING
FROM?

IT FEELS
KIND OF
OILY...



IN FACT,
IT SMELLS LIKE
GASOLINE
OR SOME OTHER
KIND OF **PETRO-
CHEMICAL.**

WONDER
WHAT IT
IS?





THE PLANET
THANAGAR...

I'M NOT USED
TO SKULKING
ABOUT LIKE THIS,
KRYPTONIAN.



IT'S EASIER
THAN TAKING ON
THE **ENTIRE**
POPULATION
OF THANAGAR.

I'M NOT
USED TO DOING
THINGS THE
EASY WAY,
EITHER.

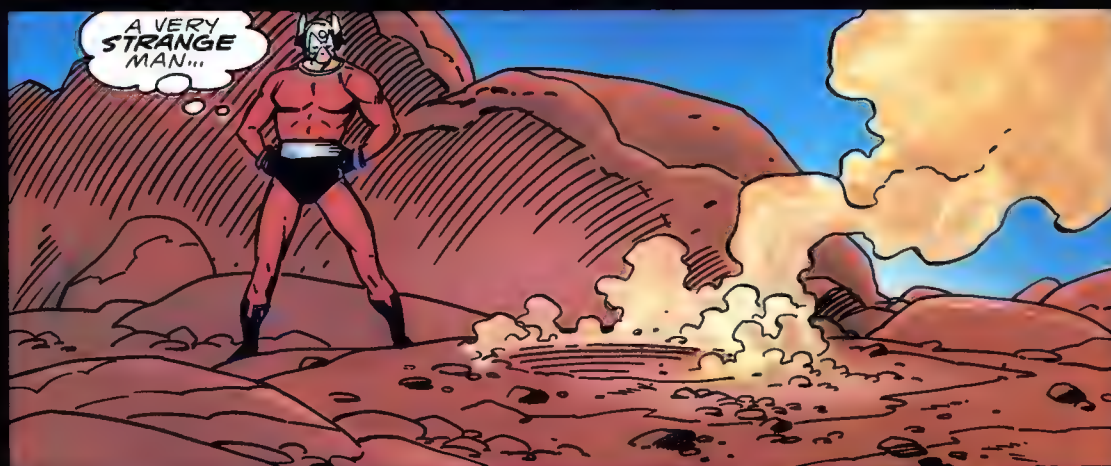
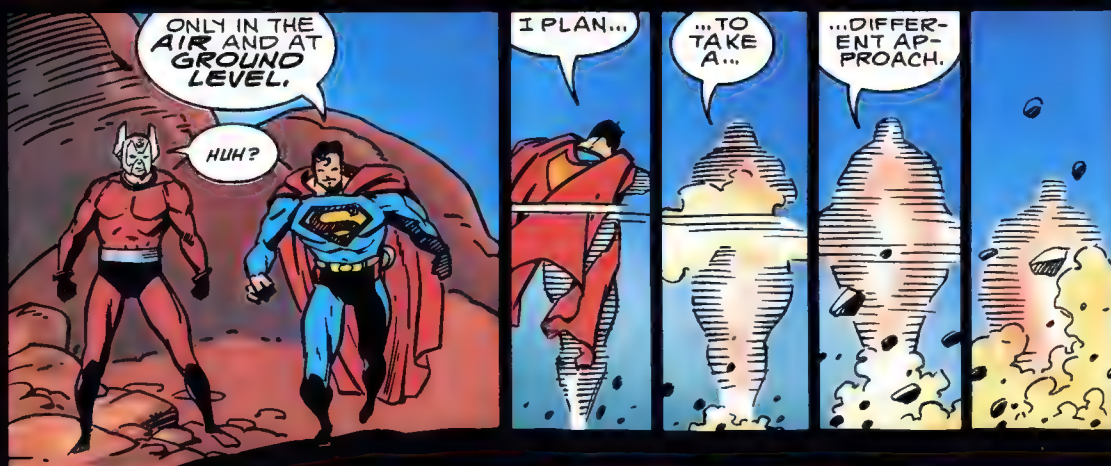
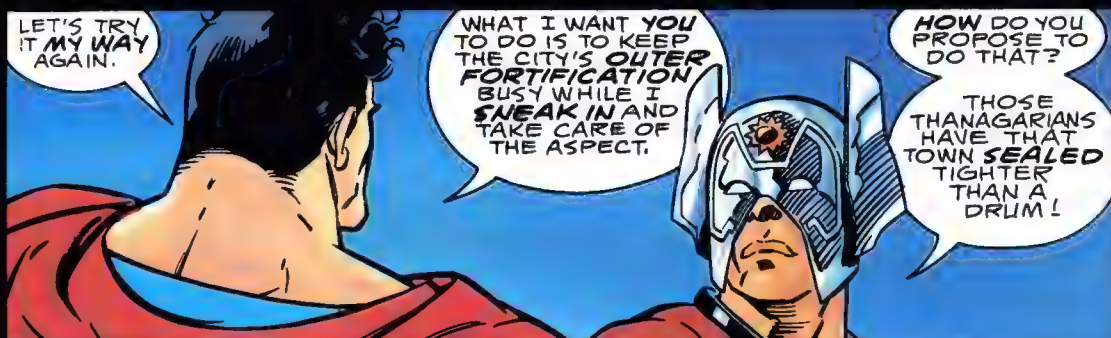
WELL, MY
METHOD FOUND
US THE **ANTI-
LIFE ASPECT'S**
LAIR WITHOUT
ANY FURTHER
VIOLENCE. SO
IT WORKS
FOR ME.



IT'S GOT
TO BE HELD
UP IN THAT
**HEAVILY-
GUARDED**
CITY.

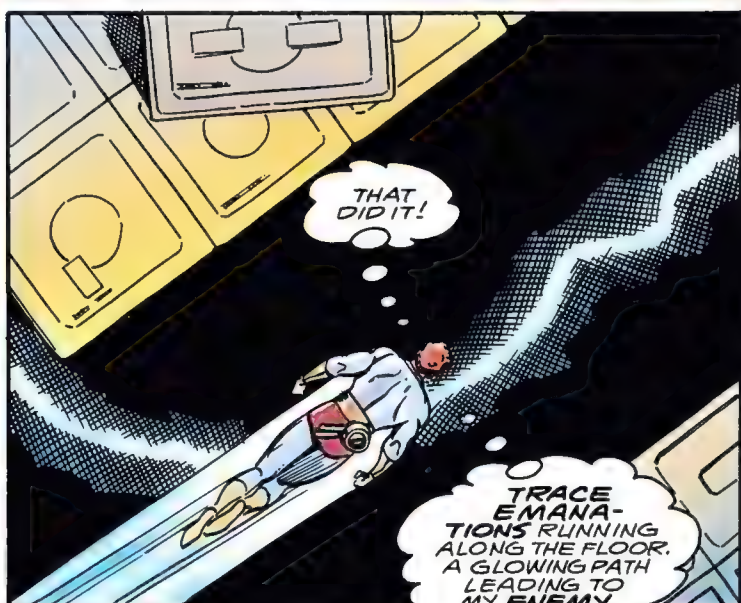
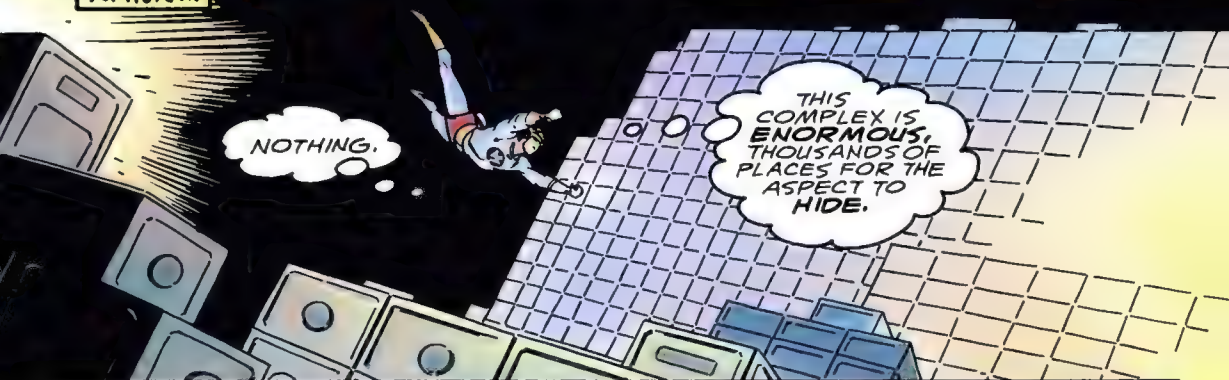
THEN LET
US **FIGHT** OUR
WAY IN AND **TAKE**
IT **OUT** OF THE
GAME.

YOU
REALLY DO
LIKE DOING
THINGS THE
HARD WAY,
DON'T
YOU?





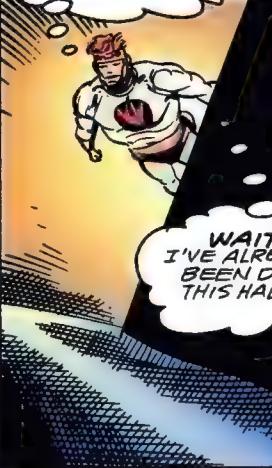
RANN...



I KNEW ANYTHING AS POWERFUL AS THE ANTI-LIFE ASPECT HAD TO LEAVE SOME TYPE OF SPOOR THAT MY SPECIAL ABILITIES COULD TRACK.



THESE PHOTONIC POWERS CERTAINLY DO COME IN HANDY AT TIMES.



WAIT!
I'VE ALREADY BEEN DOWN THIS HALL...

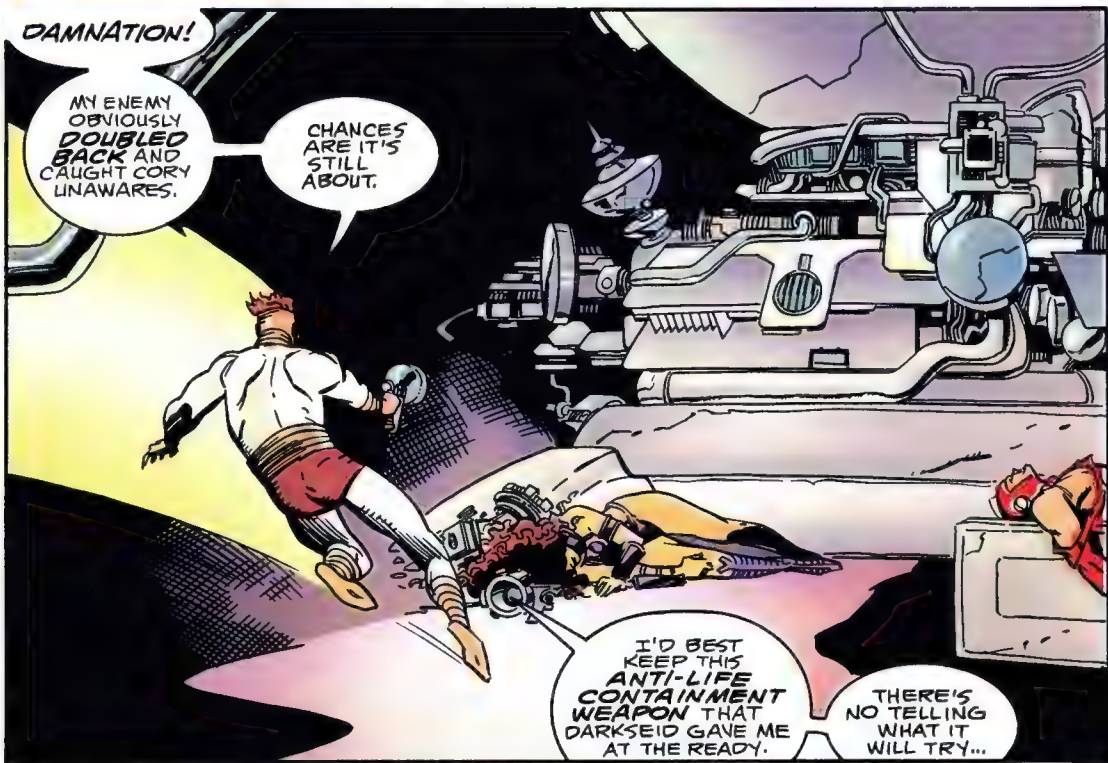
IT LEADS TO THE CHAMBER WHERE I LEFT STAR-FIRE AND ADAM STRANGE!



DAMNATION!

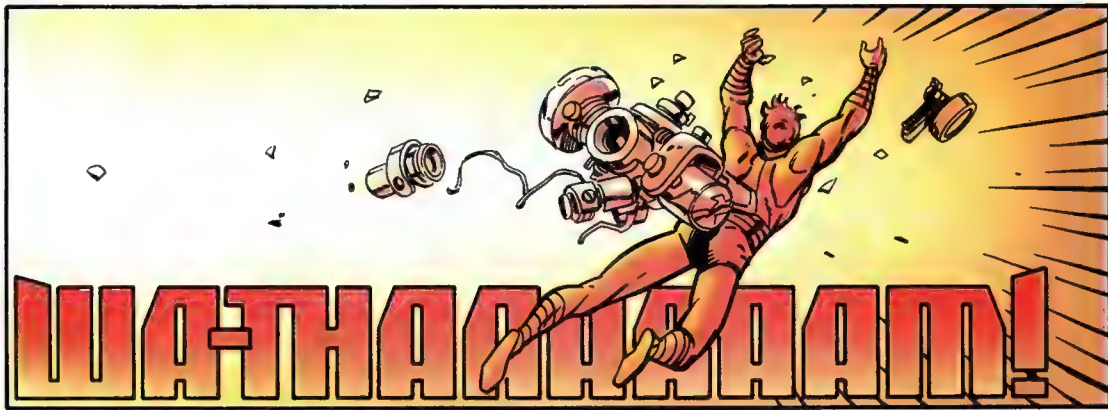
MY ENEMY OBVIOUSLY DOUBLED BACK AND CAUGHT CORY UNAWARES.

CHANCES ARE IT'S STILL ABOUT.

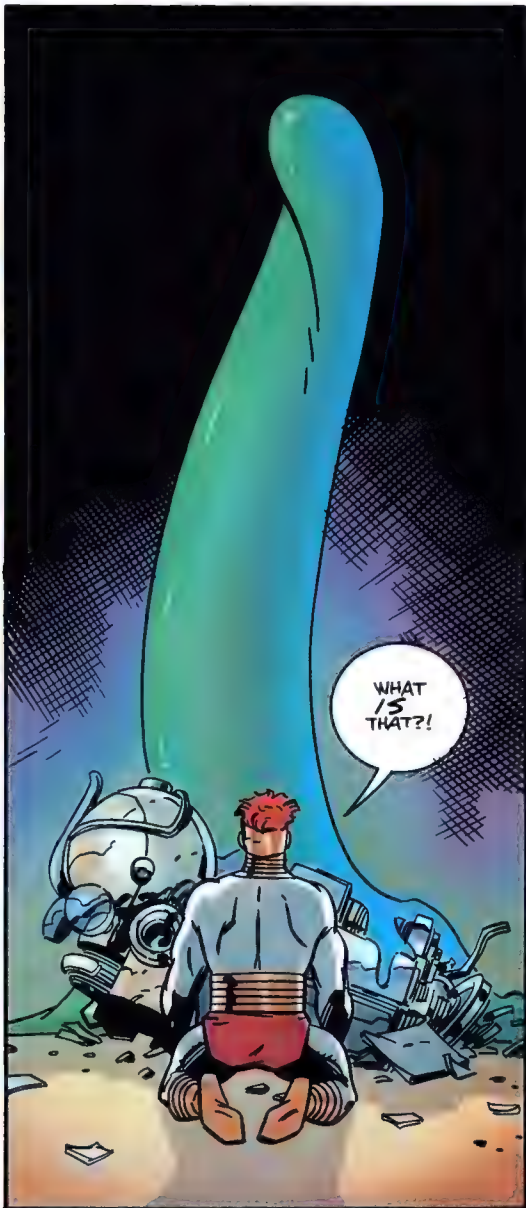
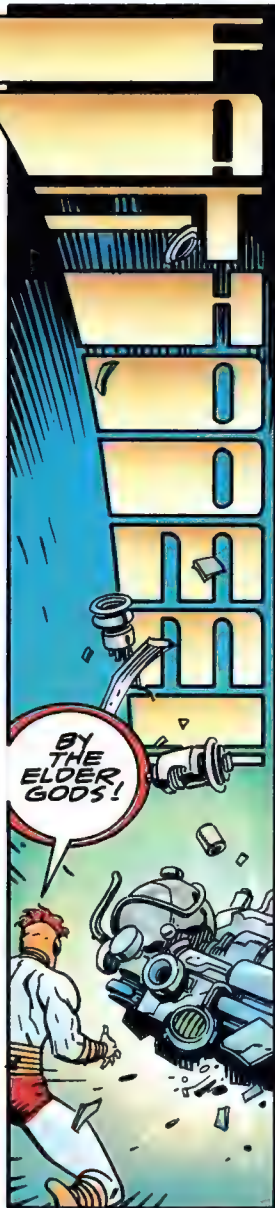


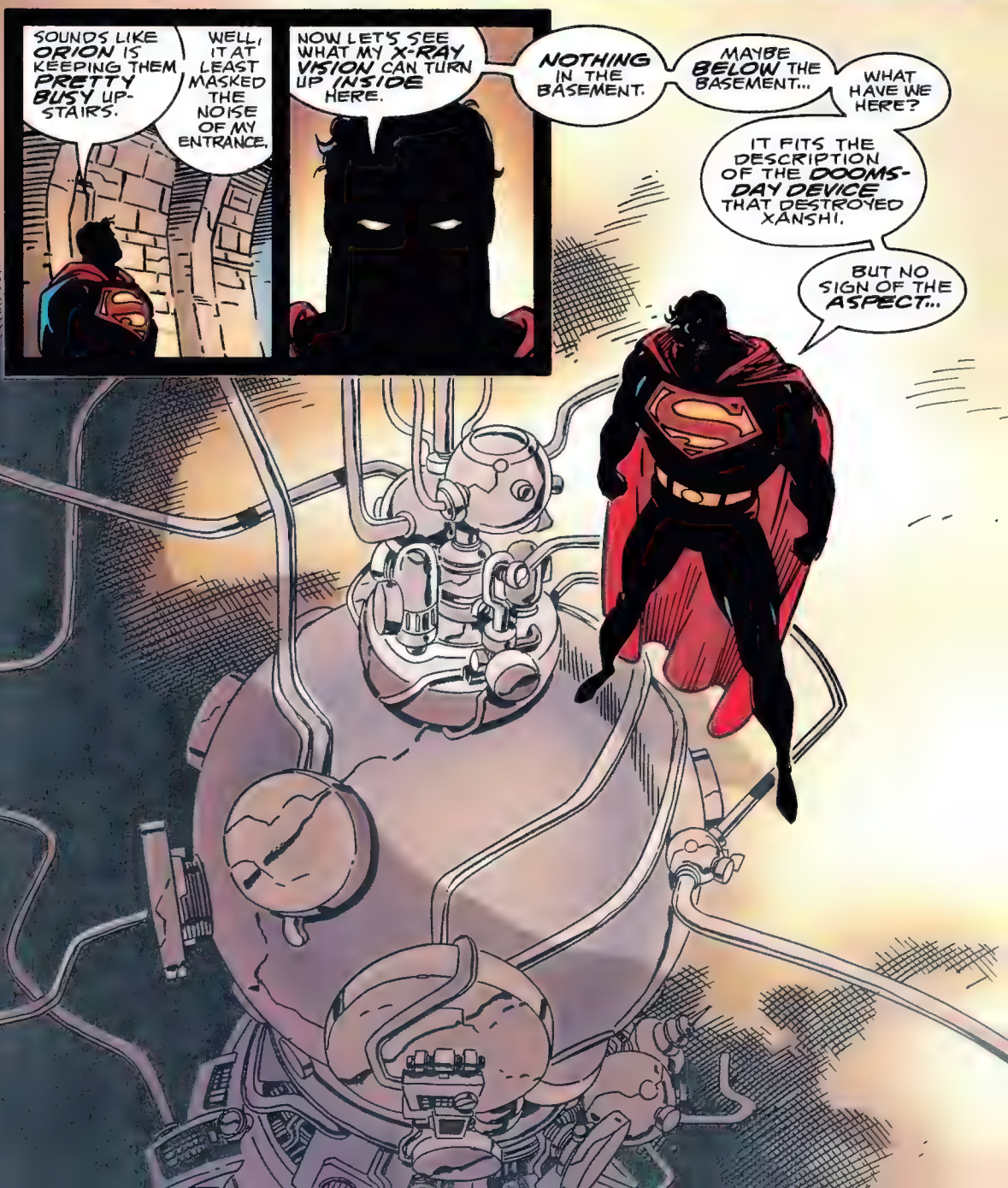
I'D BEST KEEP THIS ANTI-LIFE CONTAINMENT WEAPON THAT DARKSEID GAVE ME AT THE READY.

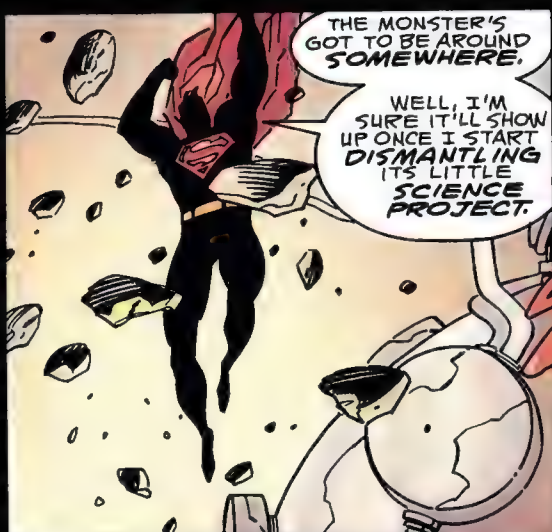
THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT IT WILL TRY...

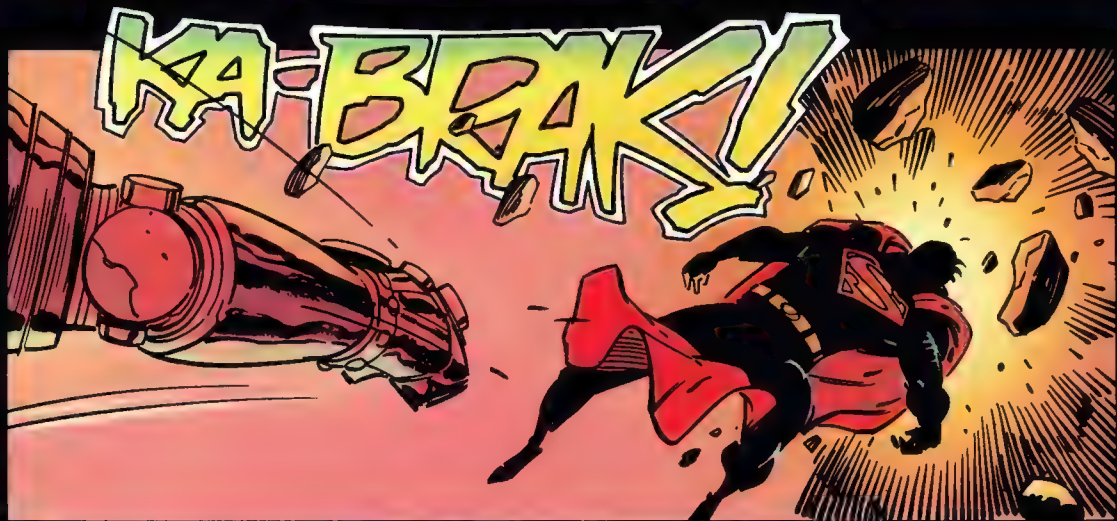


WATHAAAAAAM!









THE ASPECT HAS
OBVIOUSLY TAKEN ON
THE HOST BODY OF
SOME TYPE OF...

...PROTO-
PLASMIC
SHAPE-
CHANGER!

WELL, LET'S SEE
HOW IT FARES
AGAINST ONE OF
MY PHOTONIC
BLASTS!



IT'S FLOW-
ING DOWN
A FLOOR
GRATE!

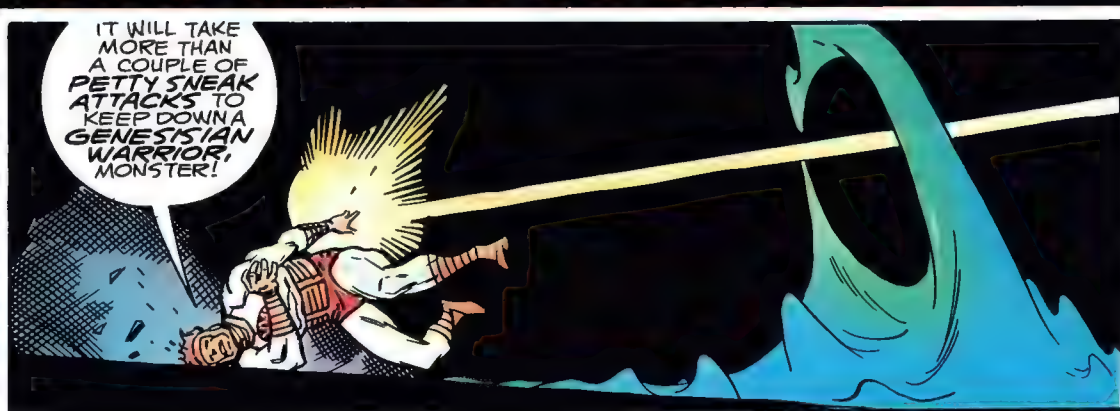
BY THE
STARS, BUT
IT MOVES
QUICKLY!

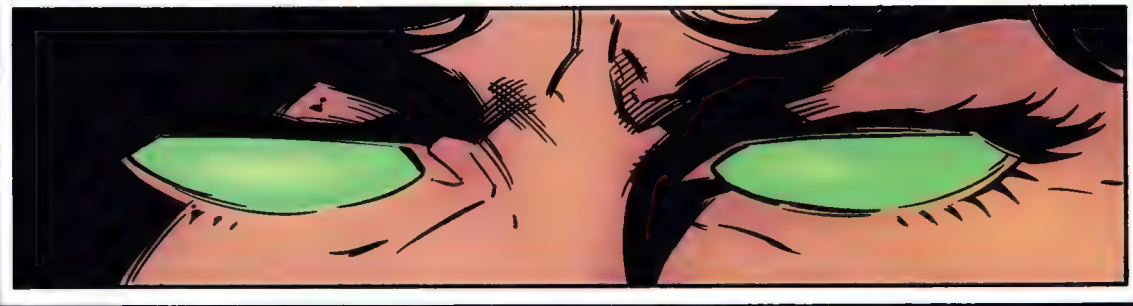


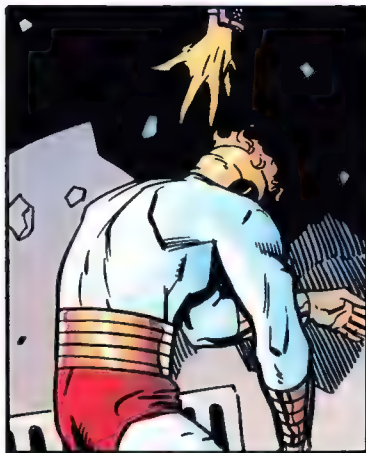
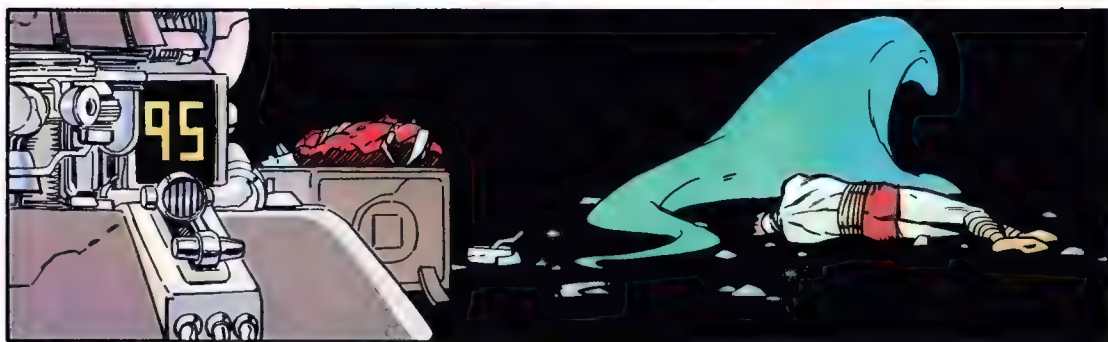
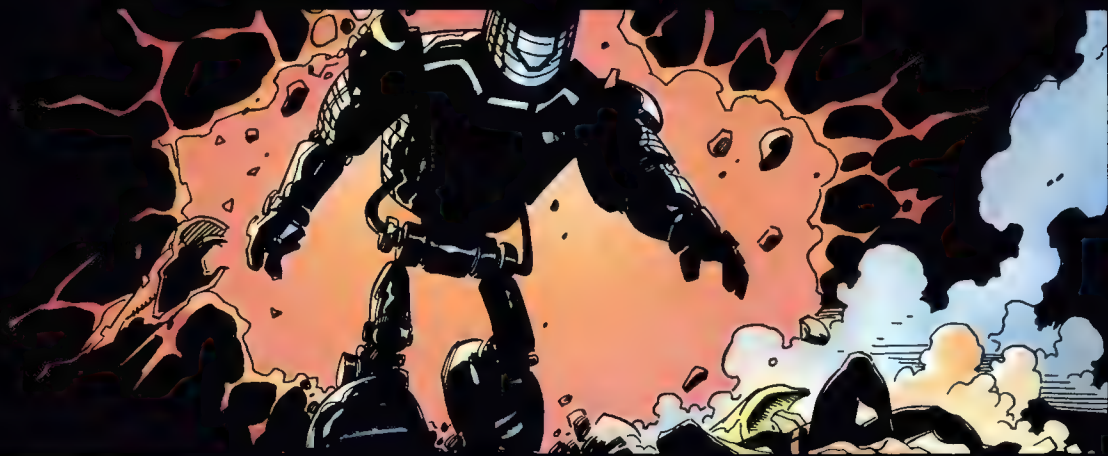
IT'S
GOING TO
BE TOUGH
GETTING A
CLEAR SHOT
AT IT.

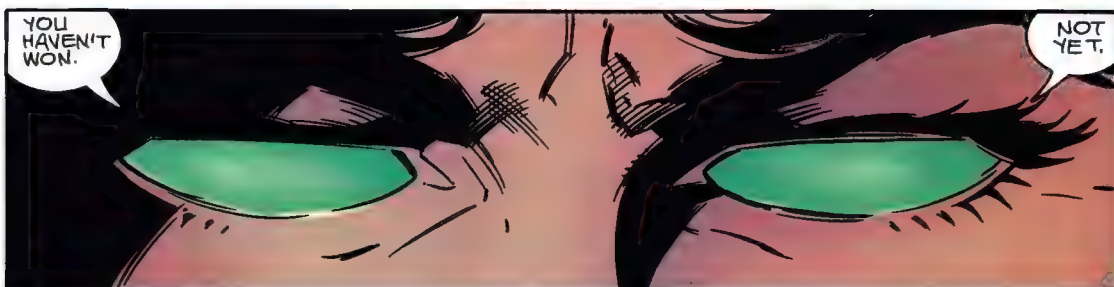
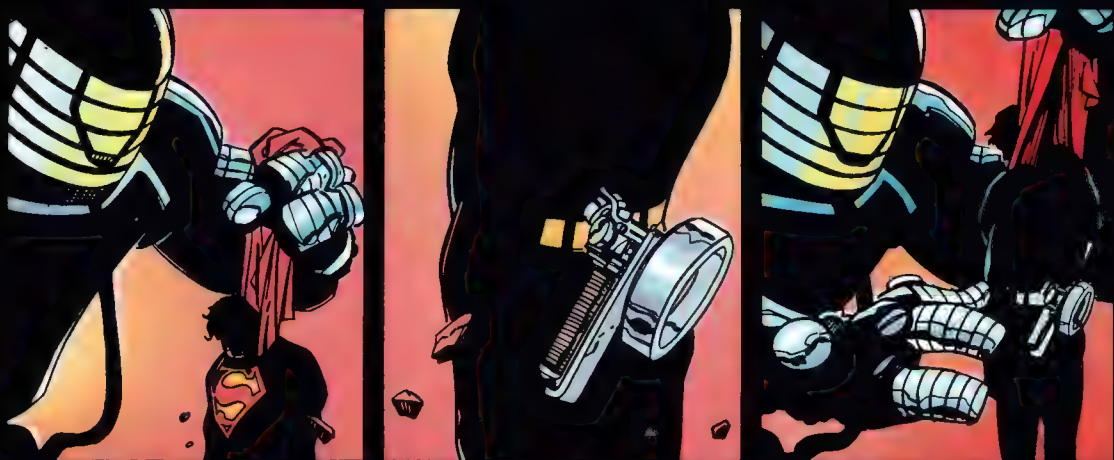
NOW WHERE
COULD IT HAVE
ESCAPED TO?





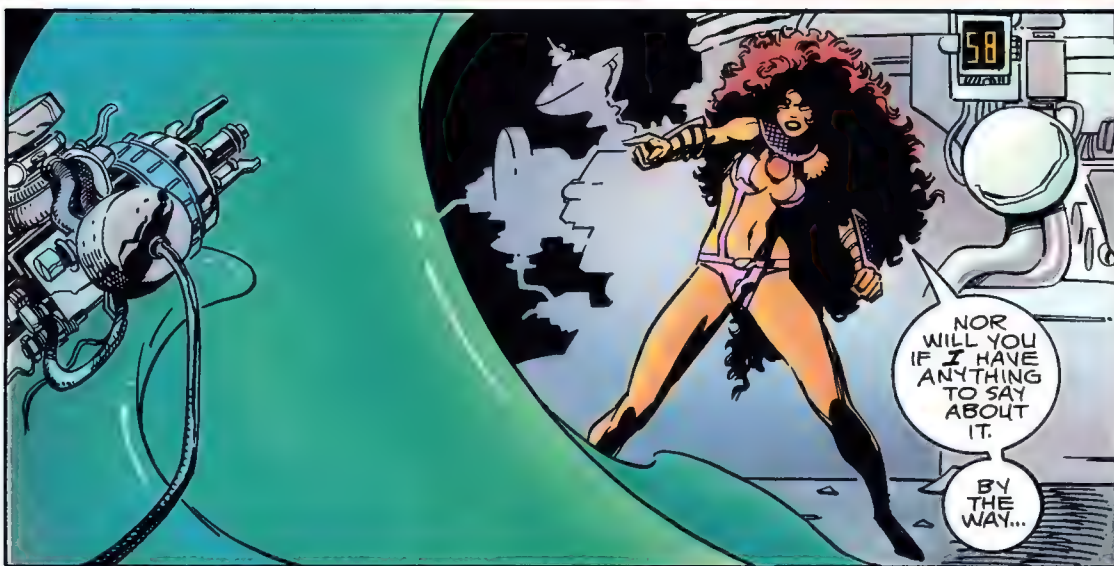






YOU
HAVEN'T
WON.

NOT
YET.

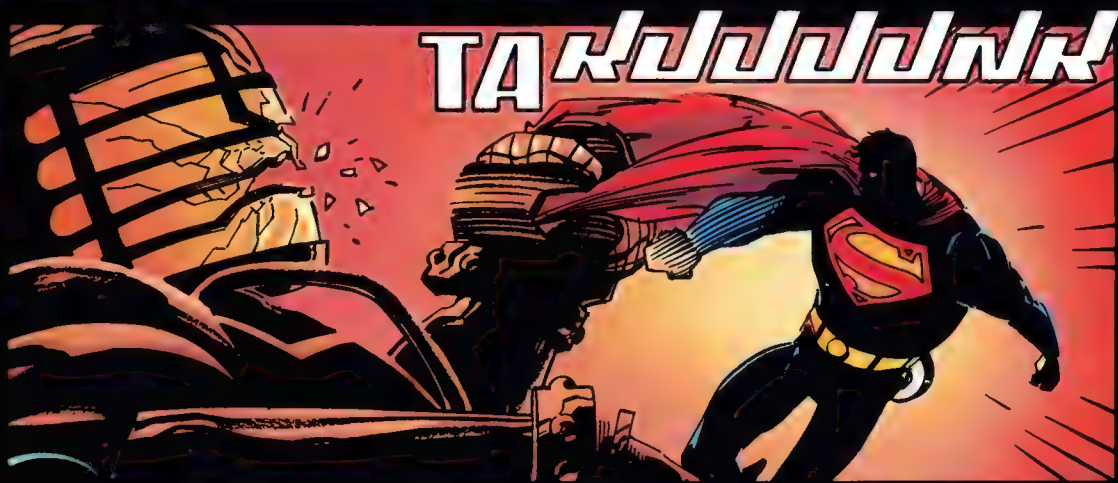


NOR
WILL YOU
IF **I** HAVE
ANYTHING
TO SAY
ABOUT
IT.

BY
THE
WAY...

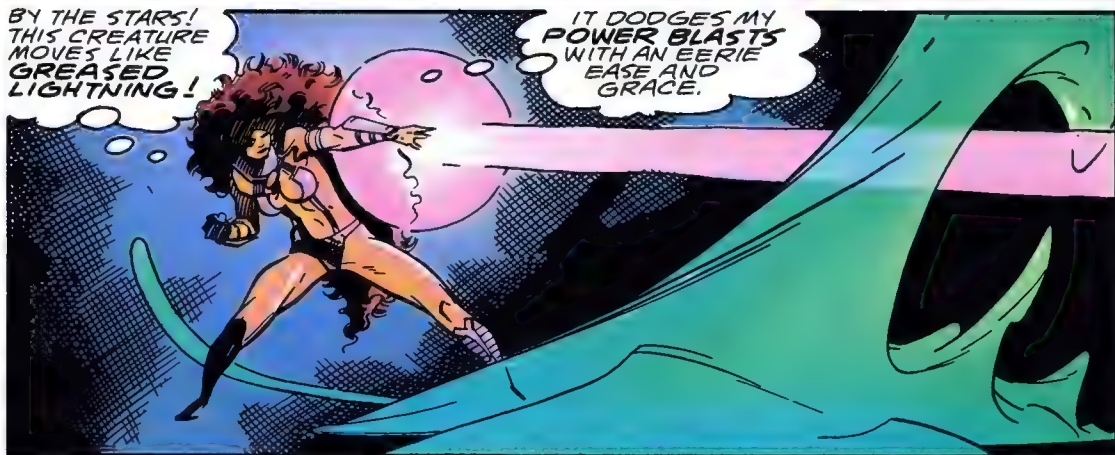


...YOU DON'T
REALLY THINK
YOU CAN TAG ME
WITH THE **SAME**
TRICK TWICE,
DO YOU?



BY THE STARS!
THIS CREATURE
MOVES LIKE
GREASED
LIGHTNING!

IT DODGES MY
POWER BLASTS
WITH AN EERIE
EASE AND
GRACE.



WHICH IS
EXACTLY
WHAT I
EXPECTED
IT TO DO.

UNLESS I'M
TERRIBLY
MISTAKE--

AGGGHH!



EARTH.
MOOSEJAW,
ARIZONA...

THE COMPUTER
RECORDS AND THE
FOLKS IN TOWN SAY THAT
BUTTE IS WHERE THE
SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT
THE LATE **JOE BESTER**
ORDERED WAS
DELIVERED,
FORAGER.

ONCE
IT GETS
DARK.

THEN
WE GO IN
TO CHECK
IT OUT?

IF THIS **ANTI-
LIFE ASPECT**
PLAYS TRUE-TO-
FORM...

...IT'LL
BE INHAB-
ITING A
HOST BODY.

**JOE
BESTER'S**
BODY WOULD BE
MY GUESS...

...SO THAT IT COULD
PURCHASE THE EQUIP-
MENT IT NEEDED.

I DON'T
THINK SO.

IF I HAD A
SELECTION OF
BODIES TO PICK FROM,
I'D CHOOSE SOMETHING
MORE **POWERFUL**
THAN A DEAD
GOTHAM CITY
POLICEMAN.

YOU
SOUND LIKE
YOU KNOW
SOMETHING
I DON'T.

I STOPPED
A HUGE
APOKALIPTIAN
IN GOTHAM'S
SEWERS.

USED HIS OWN
NEUTRALIZER
--WHICH WAS
MORE
POWERFUL
THAN I'D
EXPECTED.

BLEW
A HOLE
CLEAN
THROUGH
HIM.

BUT
DARKSEID
BREEDS THEM
TOUGH.

"HE WAS STILL BREATHING
WHEN I LEFT HIM..."

"...HE'D BE
MY CHOICE."

SORRY, PAL,
YOU HAD YOUR
CHANCE TO
GET YOUR
LICKS IN.

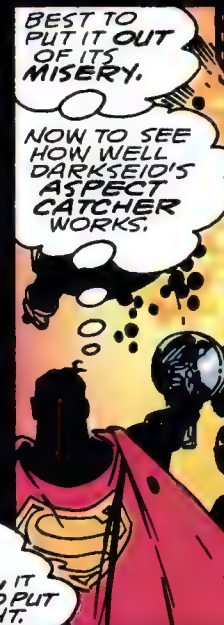
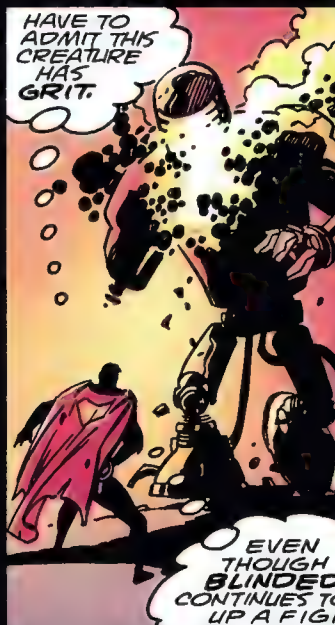
IT'S MY
TURN
UP AT
BAT!

KATHOOOOON

WRA
CH
A
K
A
K

KLA

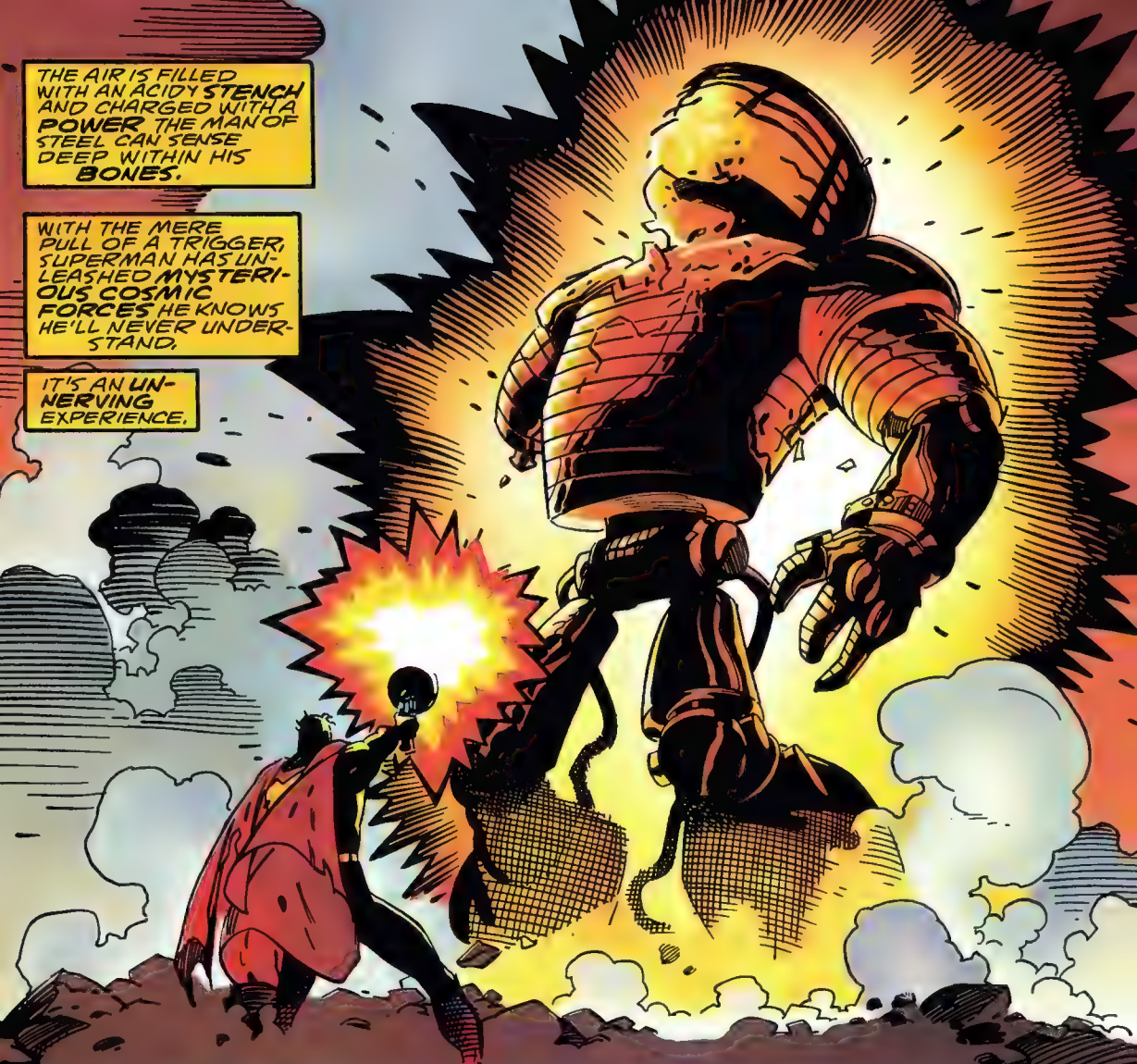
CHOM!



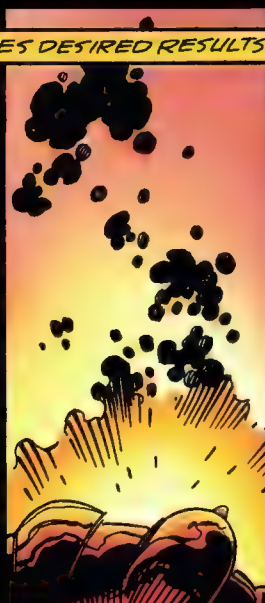
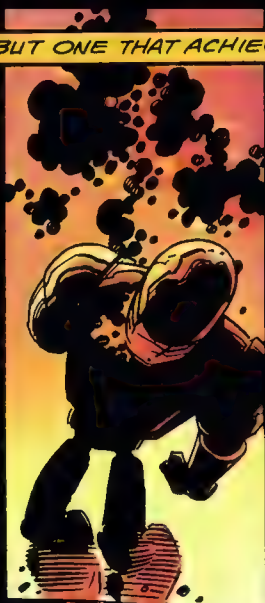
THE AIR IS FILLED
WITH AN ACIDY STENCH
AND CHARGED WITH A
POWER THE MAN OF
STEEL CAN SENSE
DEEP WITHIN HIS
BONES.

WITH THE MERE
PULL OF A TRIGGER,
SUPERMAN HAS UN-
LEASHED MYSTERI-
OUS COSMIC
FORCES HE KNOWS
HE'LL NEVER UNDER-
STAND.

IT'S AN UN-
NERVING
EXPERIENCE.



BUT ONE THAT ACHIEVES DESIRED RESULTS.

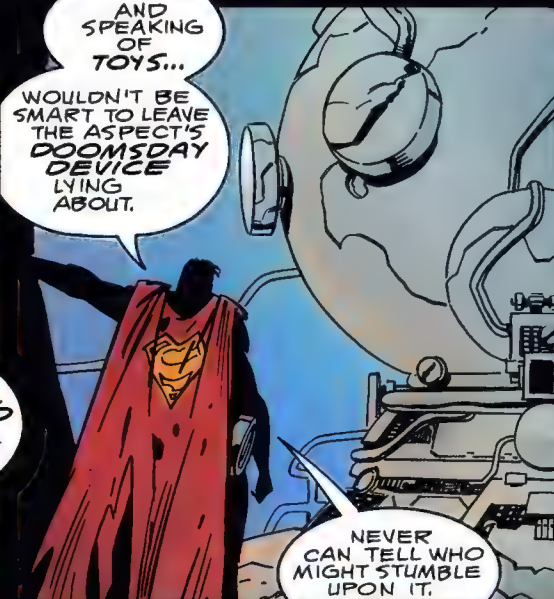




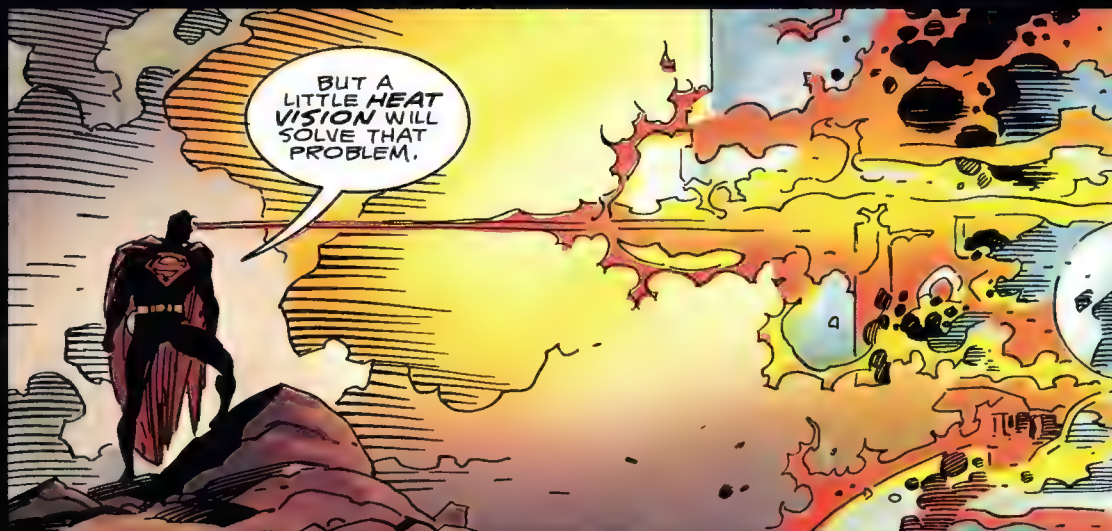
I CAN FEEL THE **BLACK POWER** STRAINING TO **ESCAPE** THE WEAPON'S CONTAINMENT CHAMBER.

BUT IT WILL HOLD. **DARKSEID** BUILDS HIS LITTLE TOYS WELL.

AND SPEAKING OF TOYS...
WOULDN'T BE SMART TO LEAVE THE ASPECT'S **DOOMSDAY DEVICE** LYING ABOUT.



NEVER CAN TELL WHO MIGHT STUMBLE UPON IT.



BUT A LITTLE **HEAT VISION** WILL SOLVE THAT PROBLEM.



THIS IS SUPERMAN CALLING NEW GENESIS.

YES, SIR. THE ASPECT HAS BEEN CAPTURED AND ITS DOOMSDAY DEVICE NEUTRALIZED.



IT LOOKS LIKE THIS ROUND GOES TO THE GOOD GUYS.

WHAT'S THAT?



THAT'S RIGHT, SIR. I'LL BE COLLECTING ORION AND RETURNING TO NEW GENESIS PRESENTLY.

NEW GENESIS...

ONE STAR-SYSTEM
SAVED!
ANOTHER
LOST.

HOW
WILL
IT END,
DARK-
SEID?

BADLY,
IF THE ANTI-
LIFE ENTITY
IS ABLE TO
IMplode AN-
OTHER OF ITS
TARGETED
SOLAR
SYSTEMS.

THAT WILL
CAUSE THE MILKY
WAY TO COLLAPSE
IN ON ITSELF, CREATING
THE CHAOS NEEDED
FOR THE ENTITY
TO ENTER OUR
REALITY IN ITS
ENTIRETY.

I DON'T INTEND TO
ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN,
HIGHFATHER. THAT IS WHY
I SUGGEST WE IMMEDIATELY
SWITCH TO THE
ALTERNATIVE PLAN
WE'VE ALREADY
SPOKEN OF.

YOU
MEAN...

YES.

THE TIME HAS
COME FOR US TO
FACE THE ANTI-
LIFE ENTITY
HEAD-ON!

WE MUST TAKE
THE OFFENSIVE
AND INVADE
ITS REALM!

BUT THERE ARE
MONUMENTAL RISKS
INVOLVED WITH THAT
ENDEAVOR.

NONE
THAT I
CANNOT
OVER-
COME!

NO! THIS
PLAN REQUIRES
MORE THOUGHT
BEFORE WE
ACT ON IT.

YES, GO OFF AND CONTEMPLATE OUR PREDICAMENT, YOU OLD FOOL!

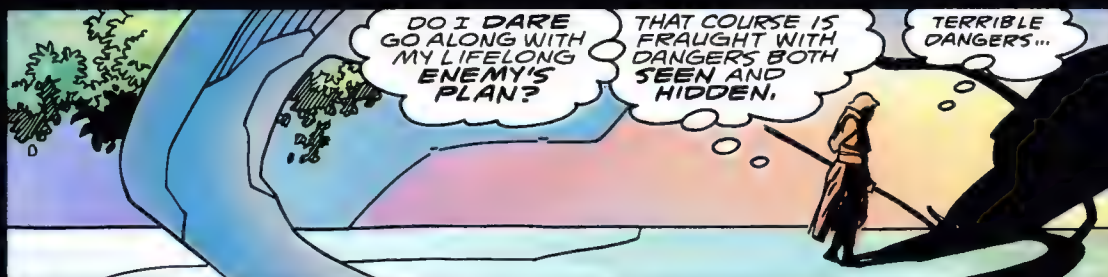
YOU'LL END UP DECIDING TO GO ALONG WITH MY SCHEME.

WHAT OTHER CHOICE HAVE YOU?

NONE!

AND THAT WILL BE YOUR UN-DOING.

FOR IN SAVING THE UNIVERSE FROM THE ANTI-LIFE ENTITY, I WILL GAIN THE POWER I NEED TO REALIZE ALL MY DARKEST DREAMS.



DO I DARE GO ALONG WITH MY LIFELONG ENEMY'S PLAN?

THAT COURSE IS FRAUGHT WITH DANGERS BOTH SEEN AND HIDDEN.

TERRIBLE DANGERS...

DARKSEID CLAIMS HE CAN CHALLENGE THE ENTITY'S MIGHT BY TAPPING INTO ETRIGAN'S CONNECTION TO THE SEEMINGLY INFINITE MYSTICAL WELLS OF POWER.

BUT IF HE'S WRONG, THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE COULD BE ANNIHILATED.

WORSE YET, THOUGH, IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE'S RIGHT.

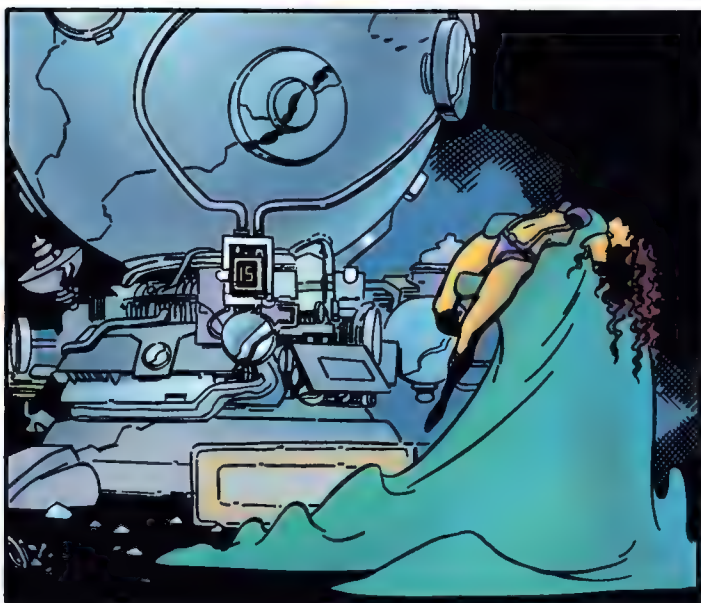
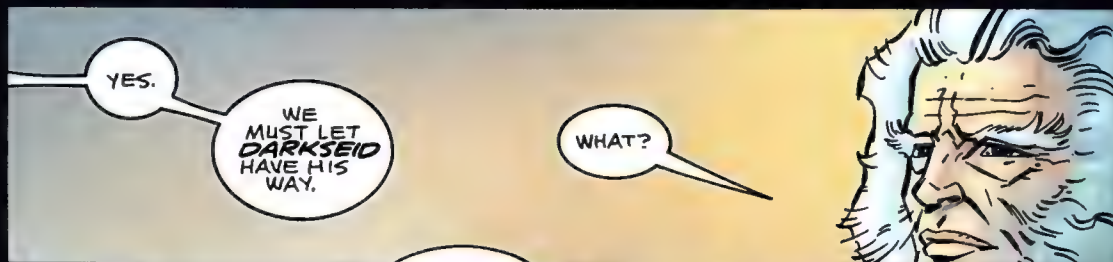
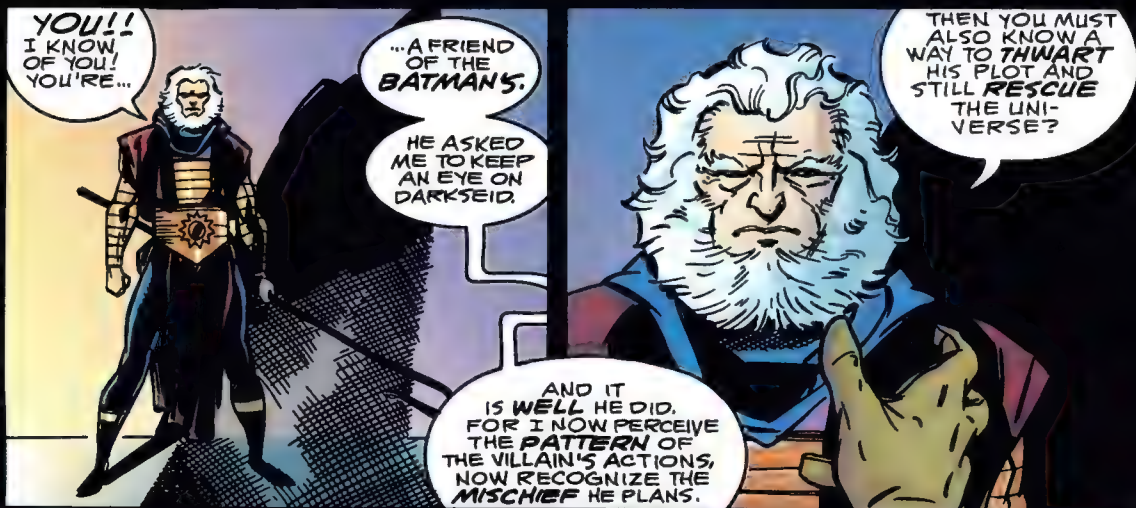
THE THOUGHT OF EVIL DARKSEID WITH ACCESS TO SUCH MIGHT IS TRULY TERRIFYING.

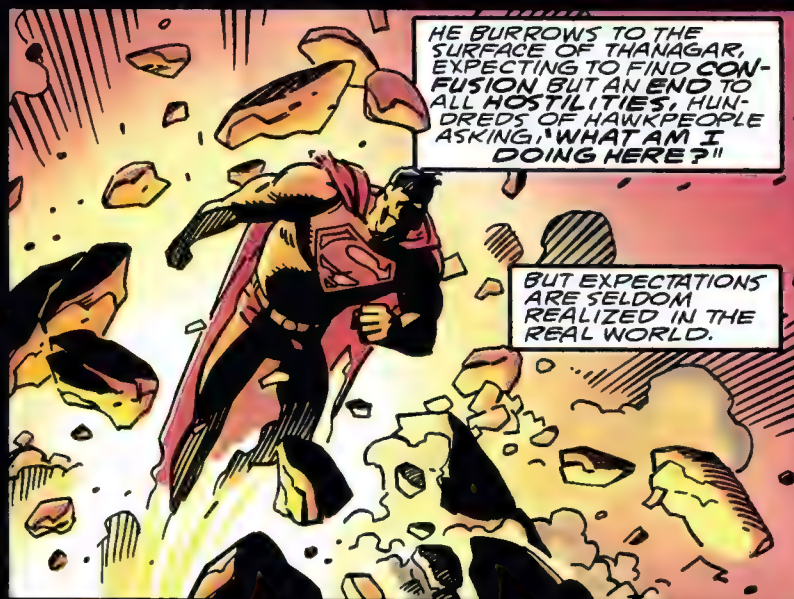
BUT HE MAY BE CORRECT ABOUT OUR DEFENDERS NOT BEING ABLE TO SAVE THE DAY.

WHATEVER CHOICE I MAKE PUTS THE STARS IN PERIL!

NOT NECESSARILY.

WHO?!





HE BURROWS TO THE SURFACE OF THAMAGAR, EXPECTING TO FIND CONFUSION BUT AN END TO ALL HOSTILITIES, HUNDREDS OF HAWKPEOPLE ASKING, "WHAT AM I DOING HERE?"

BUT EXPECTATIONS ARE SELDOM REALIZED IN THE REAL WORLD.

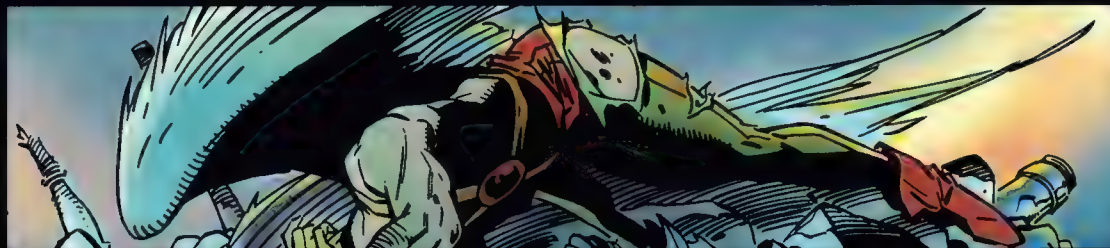
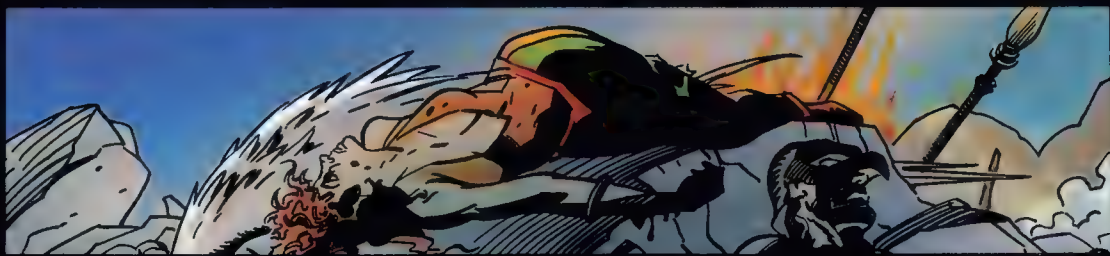


OH, MY GOD!!



IT CAN'T BE...

IT JUST CAN'T BE...



BUT THEY WERE
INNOCENT PUPPETS,
IN THE THRALL OF
THE ASPECT!

THEY WERE
VICTIMS, NOT
VILLAINS!

THERE ARE NO
INNOCENT
VICTIMS
IN WAR,
KRYPTONIAN.

ONLY
SURVIVORS
AND THE
DEAD.

YOU'VE GOT IT
ALL FIGURED
OUT, DON'T
YOU?

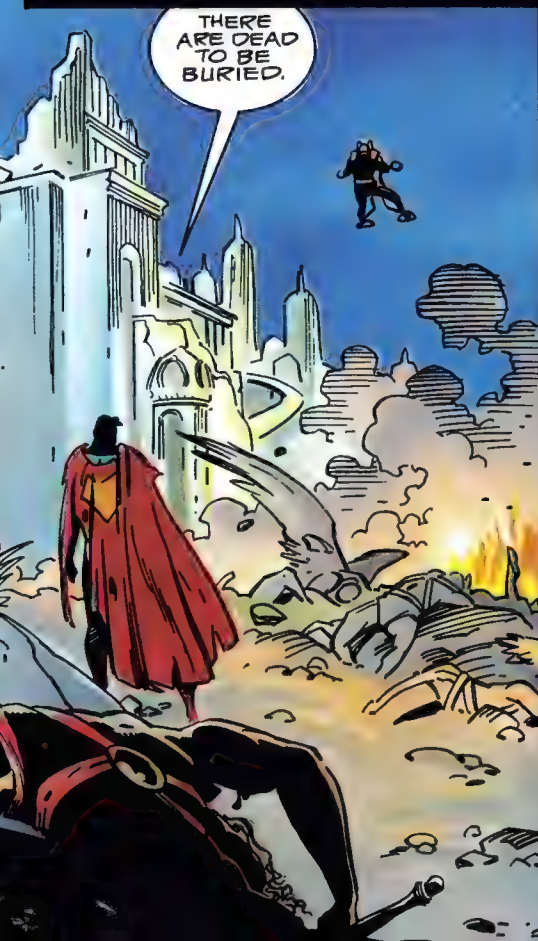
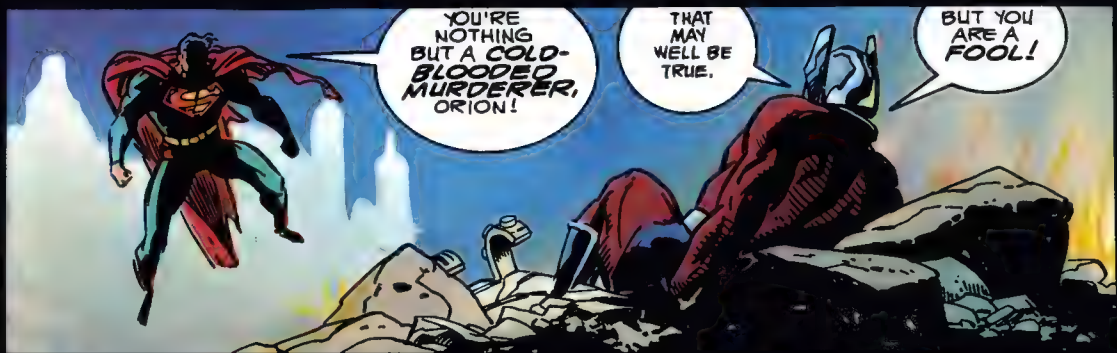
SAVAGE
PLATITUDES
SPRINKLED
OVER THE
SLAUGHTERED.

A WARRIOR'S
HONOR EX-
CUSES ALL,
RIGHT?

WRONG

WE COULD
HAVE BEATEN
THE ASPECT
WITHOUT THIS
SENSELESS
MASSACRE!





THERE ARE CERTAIN MOMENTS
IN LIFE THAT ARE SO HORRIFYING
THAT THEY FREEZE IN TIME AND
OBSTINATELY EXIST IN MEMORY
THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER
OF ONE'S LIFE.

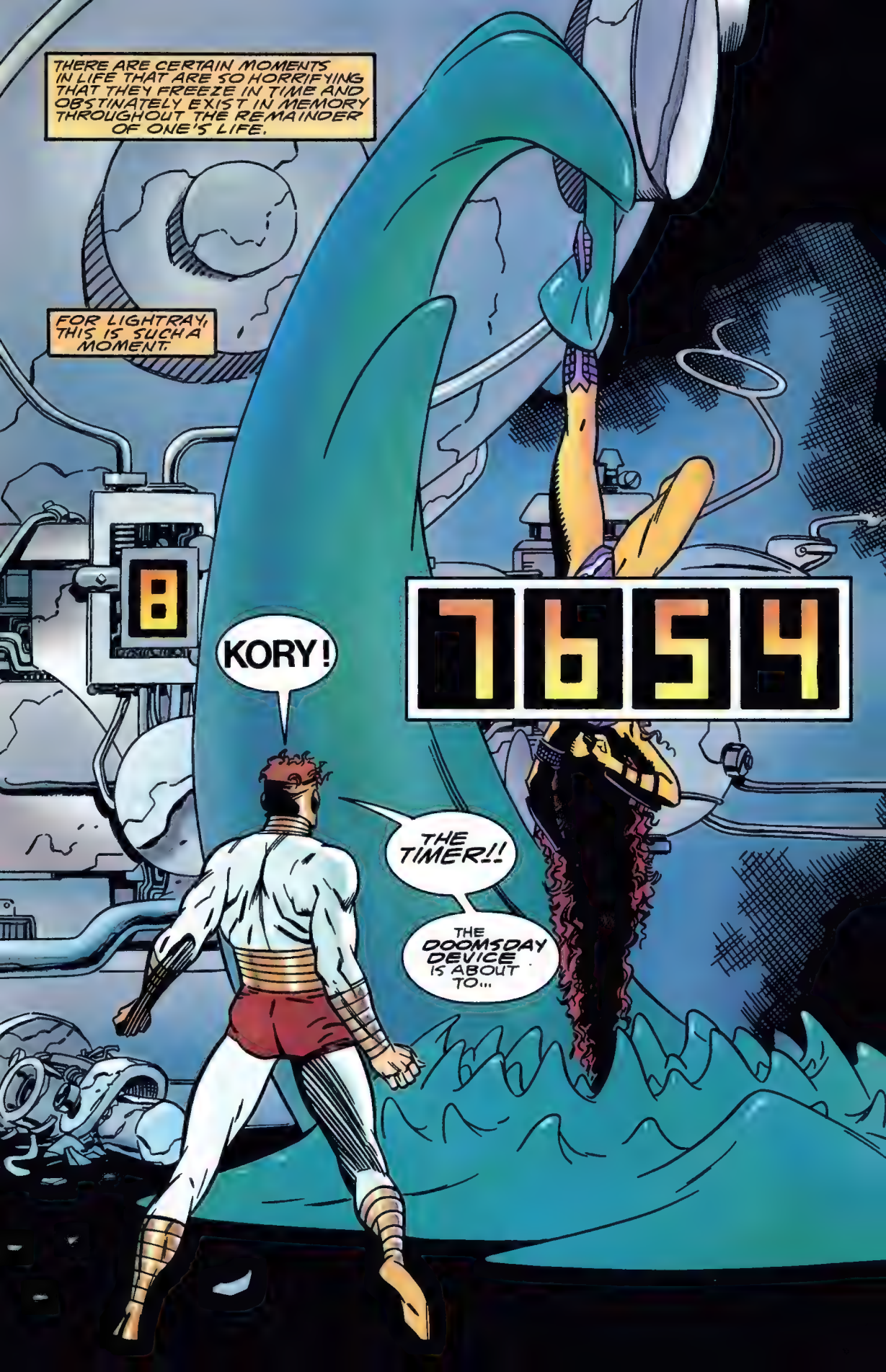
FOR LIGHTRAY,
THIS IS SUCH A
MOMENT.

KORY!

7 6 5 4

THE
TIMER!!

THE
DOOMSDAY
DEVICE
IS ABOUT
TO...







SHCAA-KOOOOSH!



THE ANTI-LIFE ASPECT
EXPLODED AND
DESTROYED THE
DOOMSDAY BOMB.

MY GUESS IS THAT
IT WAS A LITTLE-
KNOWN *NATIVE*
LIFE-FORM OF
RANN, WHICH IS
WHY *ADAM*
STRANGE WAS
TAKEN OUT
BEFORE EITHER
OF US.

THE CREATURE'S
PETROLEUM
SCENT CAUSED
ME TO SUSPECT
ITS POTENTIAL
COMBUSTI-
BILITY.

I FIGURED ITS *SHAPE-*
CHANGING ABILITY DE-
NOTED AN *UNSTABLE*
MOLECULAR
STRUCTURE.

BUT WHEN I TRIED TO
CONFIRM THIS THEORY
WITH A *POWER*
BLAST...

HOW?
AND
WHAT
WAS THAT
THING?

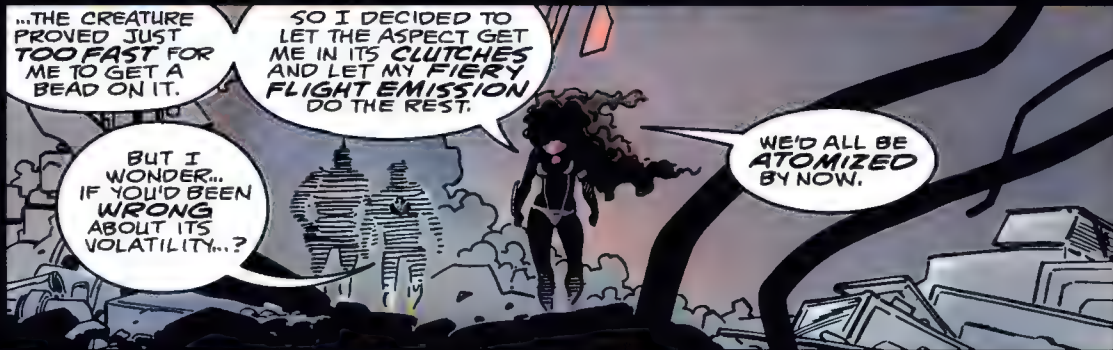


...THE CREATURE
PROVED JUST
TOO FAST FOR ME
TO GET A
BEAD ON IT.

SO I DECIDED TO
LET THE ASPECT GET
ME IN ITS *CLUTCHES*
AND LET MY *FIERY*
FLIGHT EMISSION
DO THE REST.

BUT I
WONDER...
IF YOU'D BEEN
WRONG
ABOUT ITS
VOLATILITY...?

WE'D ALL BE
ATOMIZED
BY NOW.



BUT WE *AREN'T*
AND THE LADY
WAS *RIGHT*
ON THE
MONEY.

THANK
YOU, *STARFIRE.*
YOU *SAVED*
RANN!

ALL IN A DAY'S
WORK, MR.
STRANGE.

I THINK
I'M GOING
TO BE ILL.







"...NEW GENESIS."

THAT
LEAVES ONLY
EARTH IN
JEOPARDY,
ETRIGAN.

YET OUR
PROSPECTS
FOR SUCCESS
STILL LOOK
BLEAK,
ESPECIALLY
WITH THAT
RANN ANTI-
LIFE ASPECT
RUNNING
LOOSE.

SHOULD
NOT WE EXPECT
THE **XANSHI**
ASPECT?

I DOUBT IT.
IT WAS MOST
LIKELY **DESTROYED**
ALONG WITH THAT
STAR-SYSTEM.



BUT I MAY
WELL BE
WRONG
EVEN ABOUT
THAT.

WHICH IS
ALL THE **MORE**
REASON...

...FOR US **NOT**
TO DEPEND ON
THE BATMAN
AND FORAGER
SAVING YOUR
WORLD.

WOULD NOT
BE OUR
NATURAL
COURSE, TO
THEIR
MEAGER
NUMBERS
WE RE-
INFORCE?

NO
TIME.



THE UNIVERSE'S
ONLY HOPE
LIES WITH YOU
AND ME STRIKING
AT THE VERY
HEART OF OUR
ENEMY'S REALM.



MY CONTROLLING
THE **POWER**, I
CAN TAP FROM YOU,
WILL BE OUR
SALVATION.

WE CAN
ENSLAVE
THE **ANTI-
LIFE**
ENTITY!



I'VE GONE OVER
THE **CALCULA-
TIONS** DOZENS
OF TIMES! WE CAN
SUCCEED!

YOU CAN
TRUST ME
ON THIS
MATTER!



FAH!



TO TRUST
YOU I'D BE
A **FOOL**, FOR,
DARKSEID, YOU
ARE A
GHOUL!

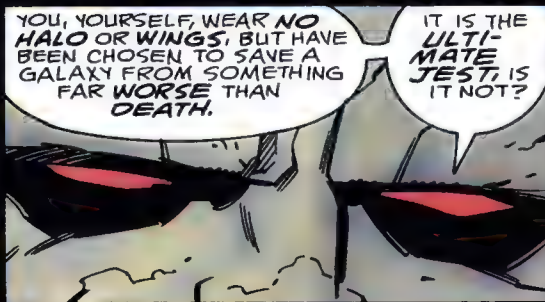
MY
ELDRITCH
SENSES
DO DECRY...

...THAT YOU
ARE MORE
MONSTER
THAN I!



TRUE, BUT EVEN
ONE WHOSE SOUL
IS AS **FOUL** AS
MINE CAN BE
USED TO DO
GOOD.

FATE SOME-
TIMES PLAYS
STRANGE
TRICKS,
ETRIGAN.



YOU, YOURSELF, WEAR **NO**
HALO OR **WINGS**, BUT HAVE
BEEN CHOSEN TO SAVE A
GALAXY FROM SOMETHING
FAR **WORSE** THAN
DEATH.

IT IS THE
**ULTI-
MATE**
JEST. IS
IT NOT?



THE DESTINY OF
THE VERY **STARS**
DEPENDS ON TWO
TWISTED
MONSTERS
SUCH AS OUR-
SELVES.

IRONIC, BUT
THE **TRUTH**.
SURELY YOU
MUST **SENSE**
THIS ALSO.



YES, ALAS.
I REALLY DO.
YOUR WORDS
UNFORTUNATELY
RING
TRUE.

FEW
OPTIONS
OFFERED
IN THIS
GAME.

MEAGER
PICKINGS,
SUCH A
SHAME.



WELL, 'TIS NOT
THE **FIRST** TIME
I'VE DEALT WITH
THE **DEVIL.**

LIFE MUST
SOMETIMES BE
PLAYED ON THAT
BASE LEVEL.

EARTH...
MOOSEJAW,
ARIZONA...

MOOSEJ

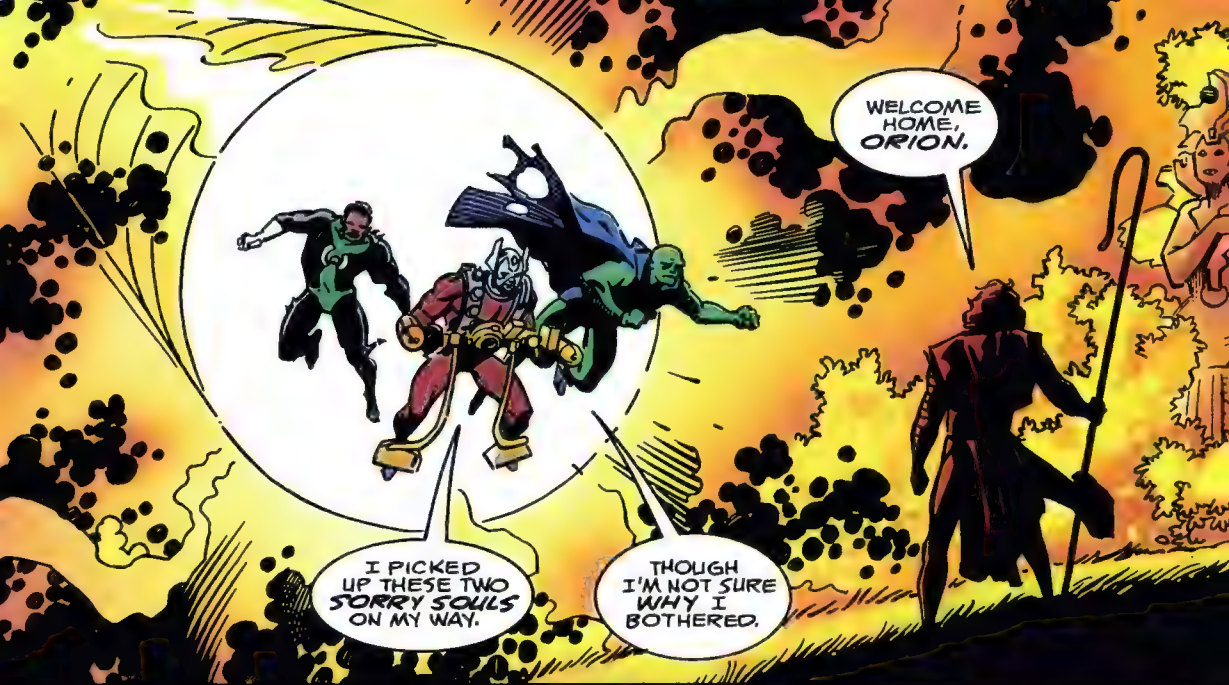
ARE YOU
READY?

YES.

THEN
LET'S
DO IT!

NEW GENESIS...





WELCOME HOME, ORION.

I PICKED UP THESE TWO SORRY SOULS ON MY WAY.

THOUGH I'M NOT SURE WHY I BOTHERED.



BE KIND, MY SON. THEY GAVE THEIR BEST TO OUR CAUSE.

WE CAN ASK NO MORE THAN THAT FROM THEM.



NO, HIGH-FATHER! ORION'S RIGHT!

I BLEW IT AND A STAR-SYSTEM DIED.



I WANTED TO HOG ALL THE GLORY TO PROVE MYSELF... AND MILLIONS PERISHED.



I THOUGHT I COULD DO IT ALL! THOUGHT MYSELF A REAL HOTSHOT!



NOW THE WHOLE XANSHI STAR-SYSTEM'S GONE AND IT'S ALL MY STUPID, OVERCONFIDENT FAULT.



I THINK YOU HAD BETTER KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR FRIEND, J'ONN J'ONZZ.

ME?

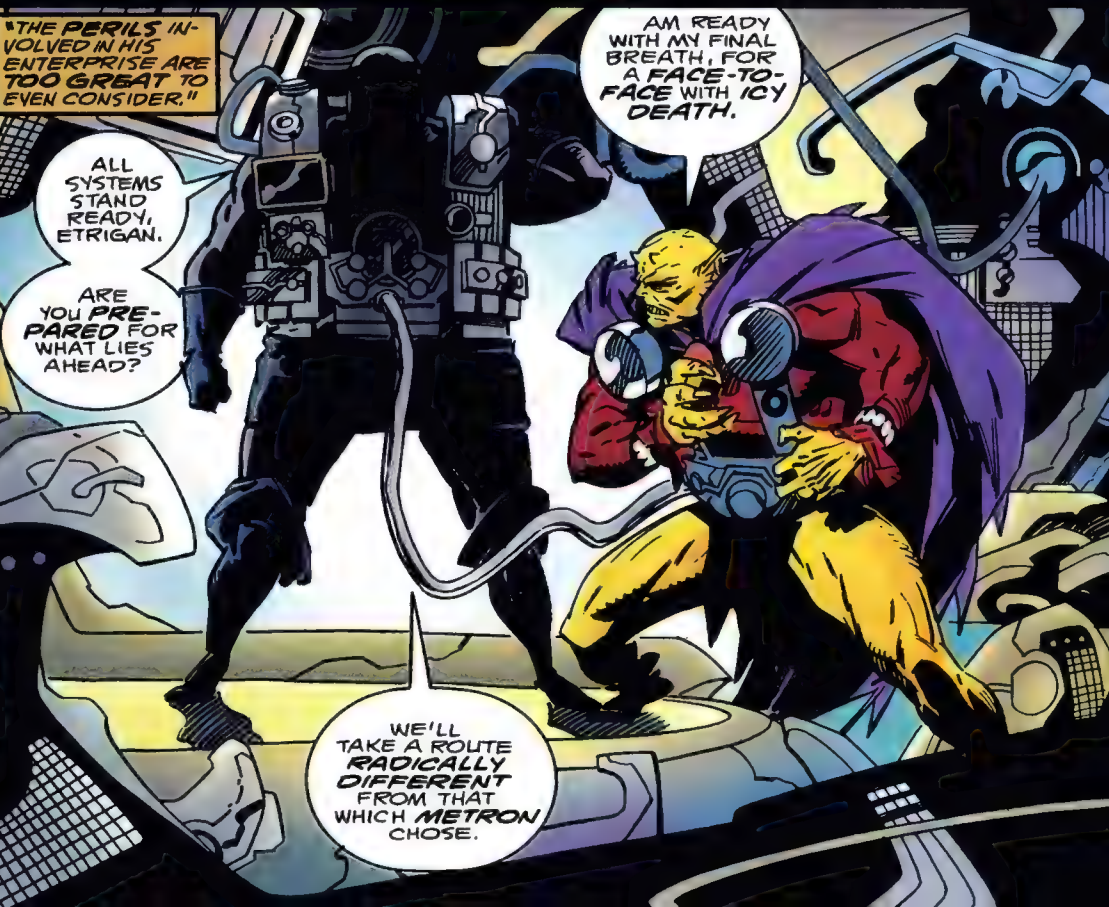
...ALL RIGHT.



SO, WHAT HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE ON THIS FRONT?

DARKSEID PROPOSES A **DANGEROUS SOLUTION** TO OUR PROBLEM.

BUT I'VE DECIDED WE **DARE NOT** GO ALONG WITH HIS MAD SCHEME.



"THE PERILS INVOLVED IN HIS ENTERPRISE ARE TOO GREAT TO EVEN CONSIDER."

ALL SYSTEMS STAND READY, ETRIGAN.

ARE YOU **PREPARED** FOR WHAT LIES AHEAD?

AM READY WITH MY FINAL BREATH, FOR A **FACE-TO-FACE** WITH ICY DEATH.

WE'LL TAKE A ROUTE **RADICALLY DIFFERENT** FROM THAT WHICH **METRON** CHOSE.

I SHALL NOT BE SO CARE-
LESS AS TO ALLOW THE
ANTI-LIFE ENTITY ANOTHER
EGRESS FROM ITS DARK
REALM.

WE SHALL
CONTAIN
AND
CONQUER.

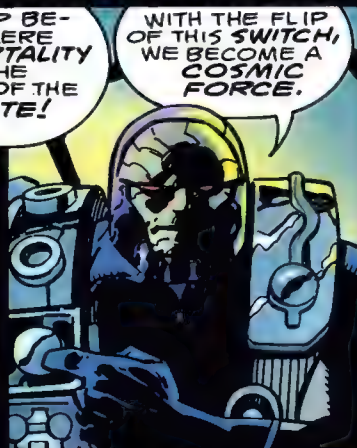


ETRIGAN, YOU ARE
ABOUT TO SAVOR
REALITIES EVEN
BEYOND THE WIDE
RANGE OF YOUR
EXPERIENCE.



WE STEP BE-
YOND MERE
IMMORTALITY
INTO THE
SPHERE OF THE
INFINITE!

WITH THE FLIP
OF THIS SWITCH,
WE BECOME A
COSMIC
FORCE.



WHY? WHAT
DO YOU MEAN?
WHAT YOU
SUGGEST IS
OBSCENE!
I...

STREEEETTTT!!!



METAMORPHOSIS
IS NEVER A PAIN-
LESS EXPERIENCE.

CHANGE IS
JARRING. TO-
MORROW IS
UNCERTAIN. A
NEW PER-
CEPTION OF
REALITY IS A
THOUSAND
TIMES WORSE.



EVEN THOSE WHOSE
LONGEVITY SPANS
CENTURIES BELIEVE
THEY HAVE SOME
MYSTICAL CONNECTION
TO DEATH--HAVE A FEEL
FOR IT.

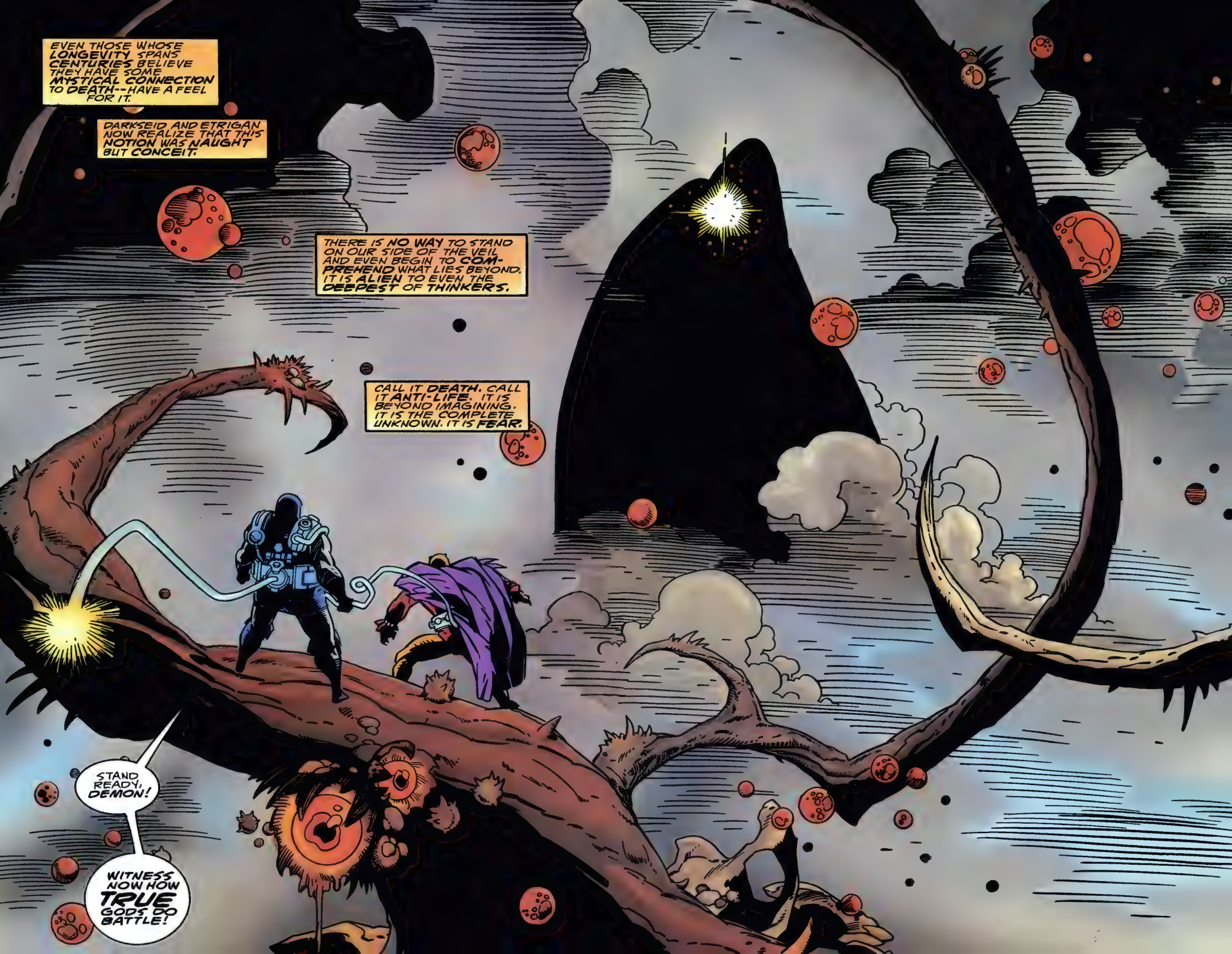
DARKSEID AND ETRIGAN
NOW REALIZE THAT THIS
NOTION WAS NAUGHT
BUT CONCEIT.

THERE IS NO WAY TO STAND
ON OUR SIDE OF THE VEIL
AND EVEN BEGIN TO COM-
PREHEND WHAT LIES BEYOND.
IT IS ALIEN TO EVEN THE
DEEPEST OF THINKERS.

CALL IT DEATH. CALL
IT ANTI-LIFE. IT IS
BEYOND IMAGINING.
IT IS THE COMPLETE
UNKNOWN. IT IS FEAR.

STAND
READY,
DEMON!

WITNESS
NOW HOW
TRUE
GODS DO
BATTLE!





BY THE
SOURCE!
WE ARE TOO
LATE!

DARKSEID
HAS ENTERED
THE REALM OF
ANTI-LIFE WITH
ETRIGAN!

THE
MAD
FOOL!

HIS
BLIND
AMBITION
HAS DRIVEN
HIM TO THE
ULTIMATE
GAMBLE!

ONLY THE
HEAVENS
KNOW WHAT
DAMAGE
OR EVIL
HE'LL
CAUSE
THERE...



ONLY
THE HEAVENS
AND I KNOW,
HIGHFATHER.

WHO?!

HE IS
THE ONE
I TOLD
YOU OF,
ORION.

THE ONE
WHO MAY
STILL
SAVE
THIS
DAY...

...BUT ONLY
WITH YOUR
HELP!



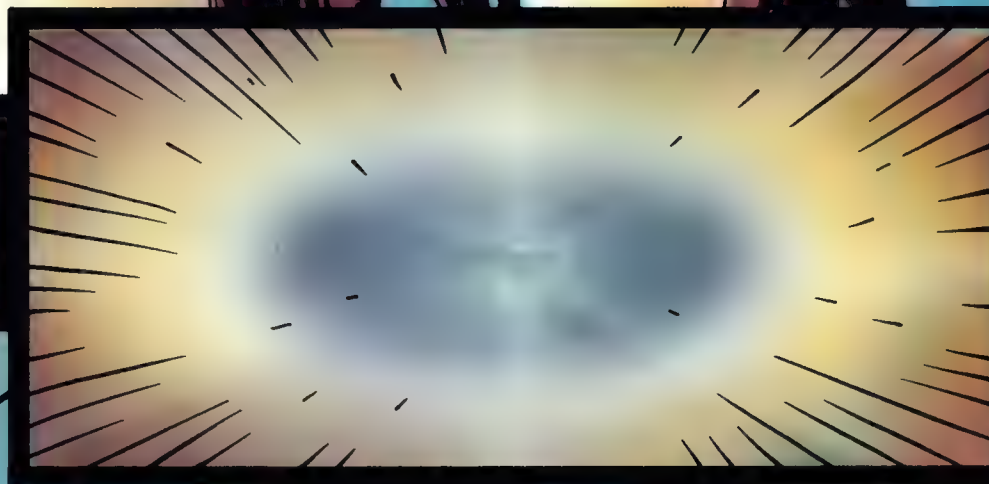
YOU CAN COME
WITH ME ON A
JOURNEY TO UN-
KNOWN REALITIES
AND FACE UNBE-
LIEVABLE
PERILS.



WHAT
CAN WE
DO?

GRASP MY
HANDS AND YOU
MAY **NOT SUR-
VIVE** THE
EXPERIENCE.

BUT TO
REFUSE MY
AID WOULD
BE EVEN
WORSE.



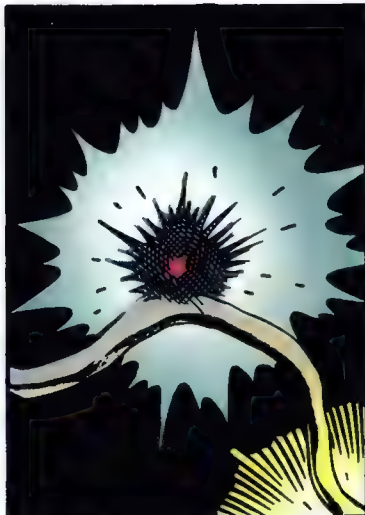
THE STENCH OF
SULFUR LINGERS
IN THE AIR.

BUT ASIDE
FROM THAT,
THE LABORA-
TORY'S EMPTI-
NESS IS DREAD-
FULLY COM-
PLETE.

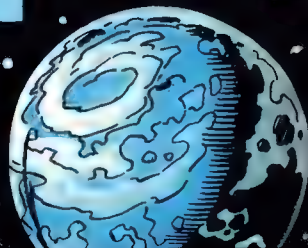
THE QUIETUDE
STRETCHES ON
EERILY.



BUT, LIKE ALL THINGS, IT EVENTUALLY ENDS.



EARTH, IN THE STAR-SYSTEM SOL, THE FINAL SOLAR SYSTEM THE ANTI-LIFE ASPECT HAS EARMARKED FOR DESTRUCTION.



ALL IS READY!



IN A CAVERN
DEEP WITHIN
THE BOWELS
OF THE
BUTTE...

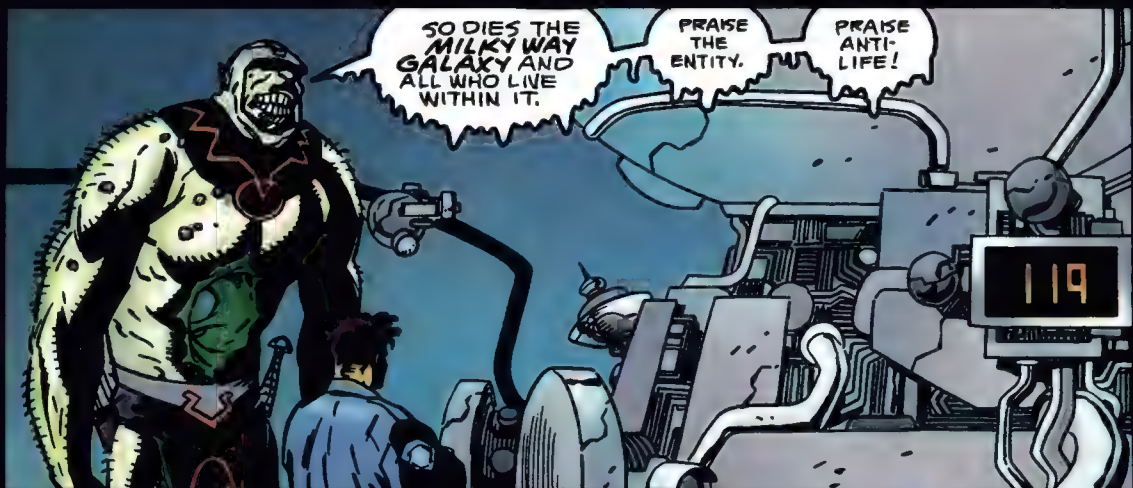
THEN THE
TIME HAS COME
TO DETONATE
THE **STELLAR
DISRUPTOR!**

LET THE
FIRST DAY OF
ANTI-LIFE
BEGIN WITHIN
THIS PLANE.



THE 120-
SECOND
DELAYED
PRIMER
HAS BEEN
ACTIVATED.

EXCELLENT.



COUNTDOWN TO
DESTRUCTION.
EARTH HAS 35
SECONDS TO
LIVE.

35

34

33

32

31

30

29

28

27

ARMAGEDDON
SCHEDULED FOR
26 SECONDS
AND COUNTING.

26

25

24

23

22

21

20

19

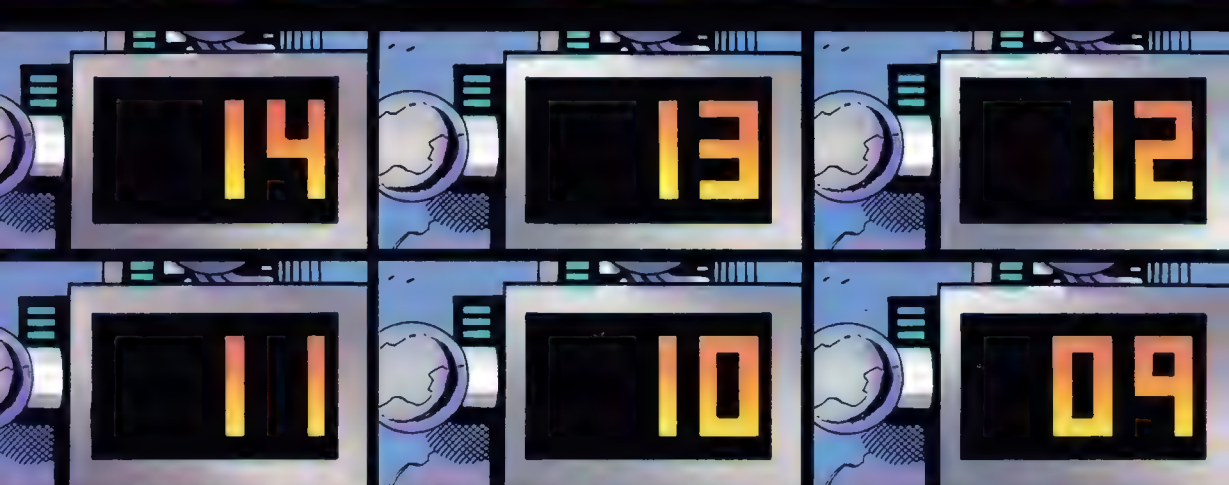
18

17

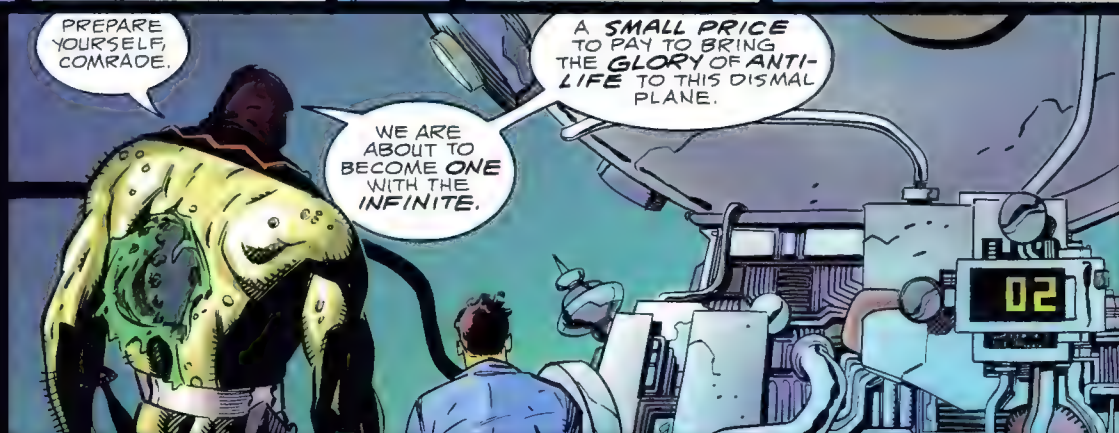
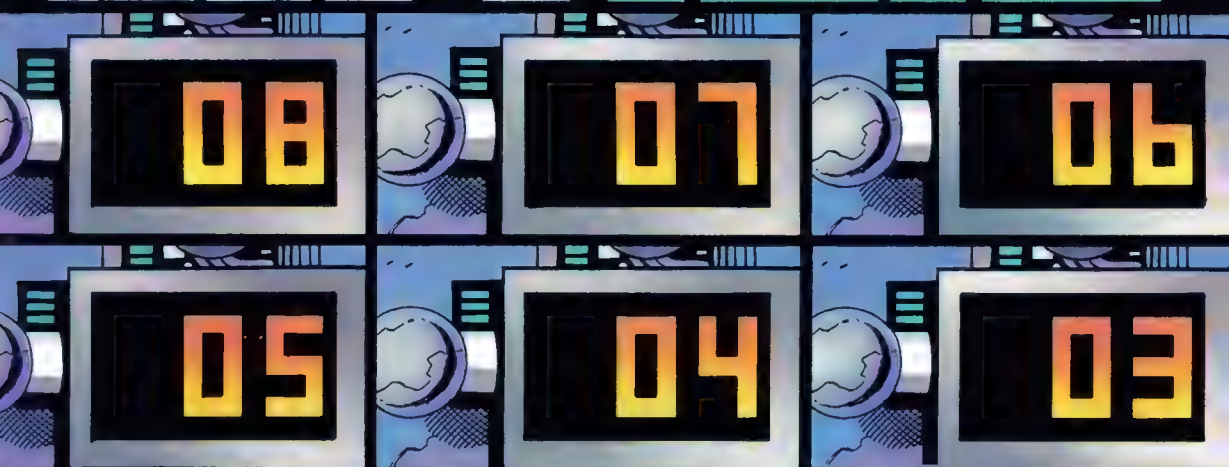
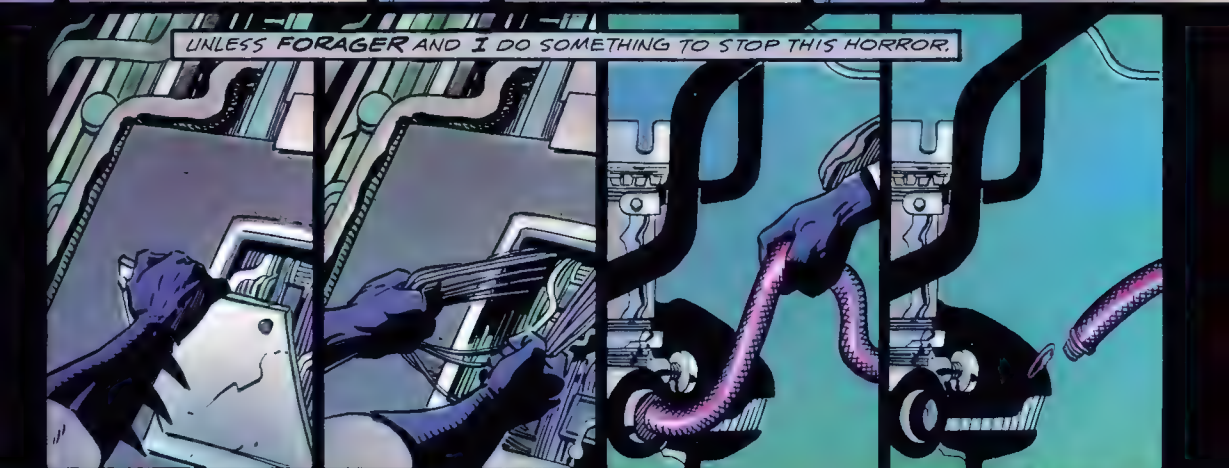
16

15

FOURTEEN
SECONDS
FROM NOW,
ANTI-LIFE
WILL LAY
CLAIM TO
REALITY.



UNLESS FORAGER AND I DO SOMETHING TO STOP THIS HORROR.



PREPARE
YOURSELF,
COMRADE.

WE ARE
ABOUT TO
BECOME **ONE**
WITH THE
INFINITE.

A **SMALL PRICE**
TO PAY TO BRING
THE **GLORY OF ANTI-
LIFE** TO THIS DISMAL
PLANE.

02



JOE BESTER AND HIS HULKING ALIEN COMPANION STARE AT THE TIMER, DUMBFOUNDED BY THE FACT THAT THEY HAVEN'T BEEN ATOMIZED INTO MOLECULAR ASH.

THEIR OVERCONFIDENCE AND BLIND DEVOTION TO PROCEDURE ARE OUR GREATEST ALLIES.

OUR OWN STEALTH AND CUNNING ARE OUR KEENEST WEAPONS.

WE ARE ABOUT TO CRUSH THEIR DREAMS OF ANTI-LIFE SPLENDOR...

WHAT HAPPENED ?!

JUST A LITTLE FARTHER...

...ABOUT
TO CRUSH IT
FLAT.

KE-
ER-
TAAAA!!!



JUST AS I EXPECTED, NOT
EVEN THAT LUMBERING
BRUTE CAN SHAKE OFF
TWO TONS OF MACHINERY.



BESTER'S A BIT MORE
SPRY ON HIS FEET, BUT
I DON'T FIGURE HE'LL
GIVE US MUCH TROUBLE.





I'M WRONG.

HE SWATS US OUT OF THE AIR AS IF WE WERE NO MORE THAN BOTHER-SOME INSECTS.



I LET BESTER HAVE EVERYTHING I'VE GOT.

HE SHRUGS OFF THE BLOW WITHOUT EVEN BLINKING AN EYE.



THE NEXT THING I KNOW, I'VE STEPPED IN THE WAY OF AN EXPRESS TRAIN.

I TUMBLE INTO A WORLD OF PAIN.

FORTUNATELY, I'VE GOT BACK UP.



HAVING SEEN HOW EASILY BESTER HANDLED ME, FORAGER DOESN'T PULL ANY PUNCHES DEALING WITH THE DEAD COP.



IT'S ALL OVER
BY THE TIME MY
HEAD CLEARS.

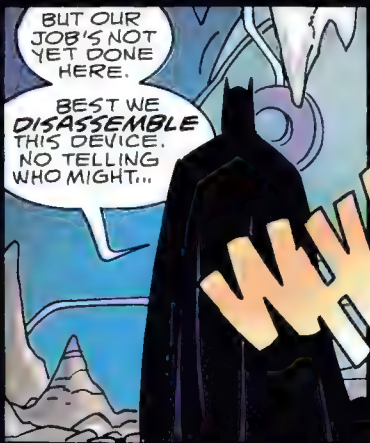
A ROBOT!

FIGURES,
THE WAY IT
TOSSED US
AROUND.



WELL, IT APPEARS
WE'VE MANAGED TO
SAVE YOUR WORLD,
BATMAN.

YOU DO
GOOD
WORK,
FORAGER.



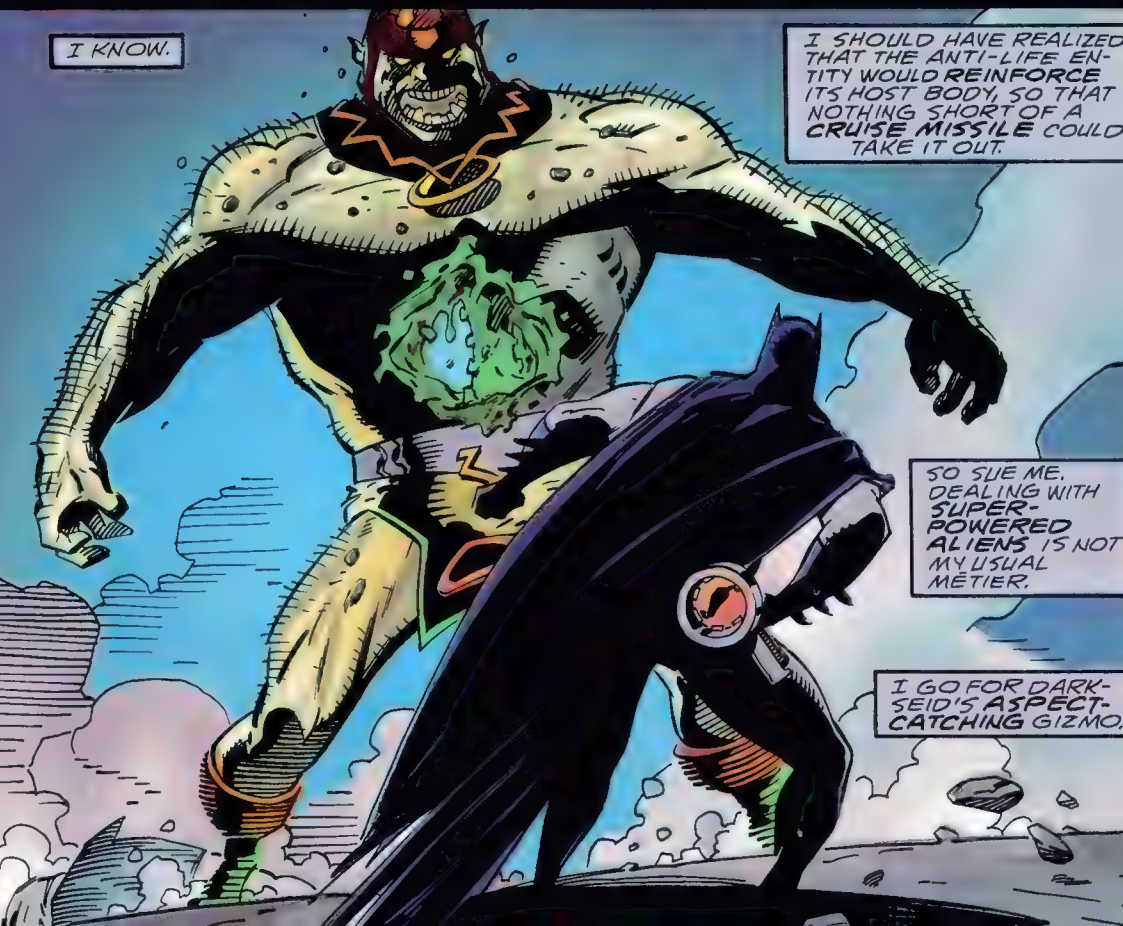
BUT OUR
JOB'S NOT
YET DONE
HERE.

BEST WE
DISASSEMBLE
THIS DEVICE.
NO TELLING
WHO MIGHT...

WHUMP!



WHAT?



I KNOW.

I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED
THAT THE ANTI-LIFE EN-
TITY WOULD REINFORCE
ITS HOST BODY, SO THAT
NOTHING SHORT OF A
CRUISE MISSILE COULD
TAKE IT OUT.

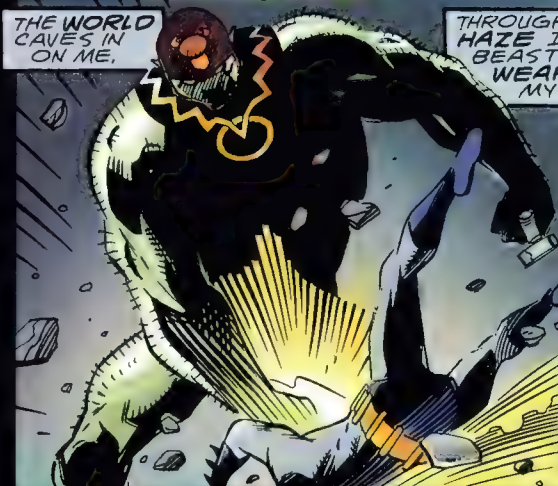
SO SUE ME,
DEALING WITH
SUPER-
POWERED
ALIENS IS NOT
MY USUAL
METIER.

I GO FOR DARK-
SEID'S ASPECT-
CATCHING GIZMO.



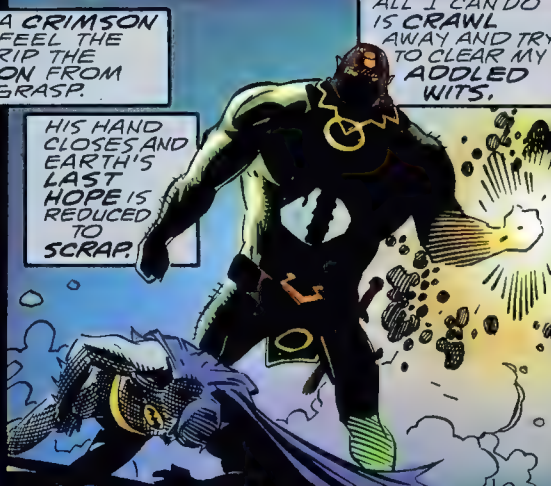
UNFORTUNATELY THE BRUTE IS AS NIMBLE AS A BALLET DANCER.

HE'S ALL OVER ME BEFORE I CAN GET A BEAD.



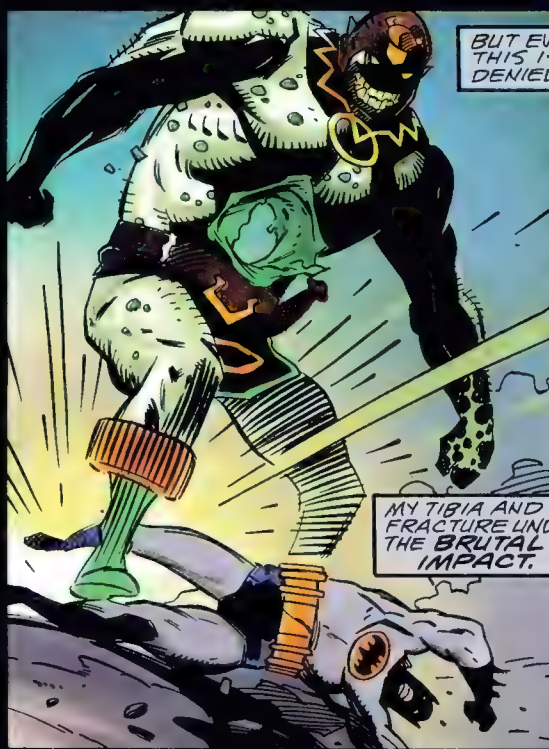
THE WORLD CAVES IN ON ME.

THROUGH A CRIMSON HAZE I FEEL THE BEAST RIP THE WEAPON FROM MY GRASP.



ALL I CAN DO IS CRAWL AWAY AND TRY TO CLEAR MY ADDLED WITS.

HIS HAND CLOSES AND EARTH'S LAST HOPE IS REDUCED TO SCRAP.



BUT EVEN THIS IS DENIED ME.

MY TIBIA AND FIBULA FRACTURE UNDER THE BRUTAL IMPACT.



SOMEHOW I RETAIN MY FRAGILE GRIP ON CONSCIOUSNESS, BUT IT DOES ME LITTLE GOOD.

I'M LIKE A BABE IN THE GIANT'S HANDS... HELPLESS.



HIS HANDS TIGHTEN
AROUND MY THROAT
EVER SO SLOWLY.

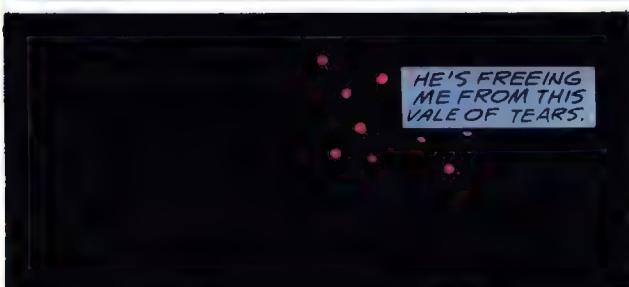
HE TAKES
HIS TIME
FINISHING
ME, WANT-
ING TO
SAVOR
MY END.



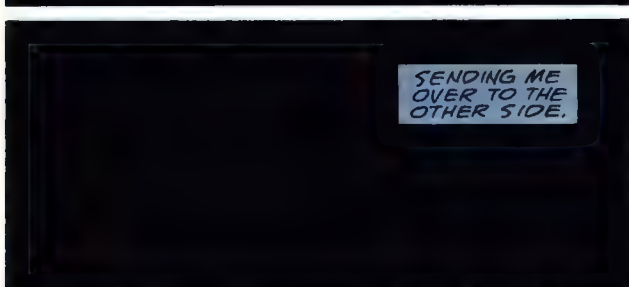
THERE IS
CEREMONY
IN THIS
DEATH.



THE MONSTER
DISPATCHES
ME WITH A
SENSE OF
REVERENCE.



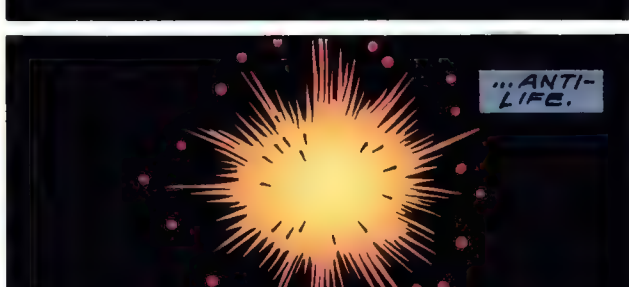
HE'S FREEING
ME FROM THIS
VALE OF TEARS.



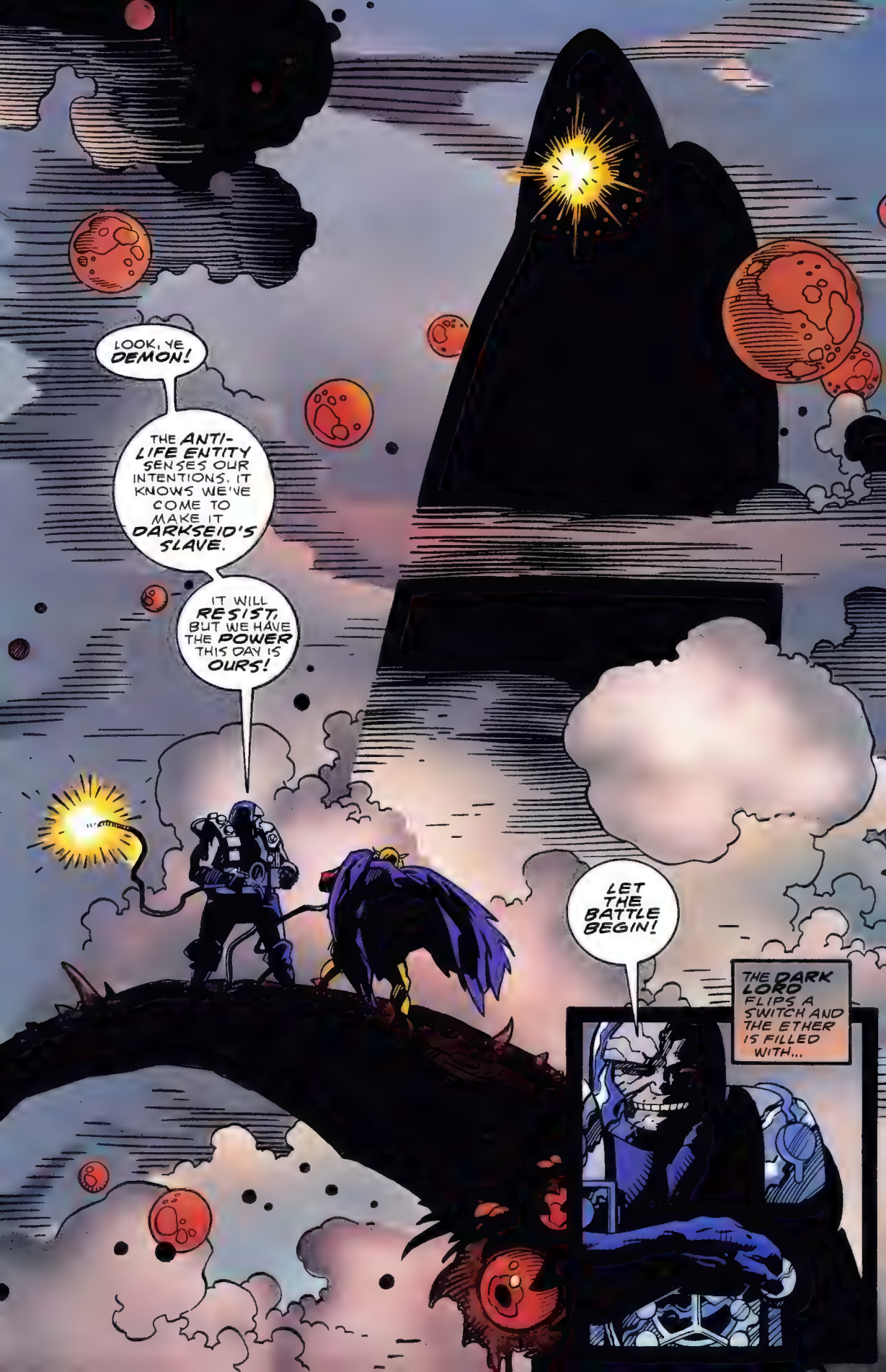
SENDING ME
OVER TO THE
OTHER SIDE.



DISPATCH-
ING ME TO
THE REALM
OF...



...ANTI-
LIFE.



LOOK, YE
DEMON!

THE **ANTI-
LIFE ENTITY**
SENSES OUR
INTENTIONS. IT
KNOWS WE'VE
COME TO
MAKE IT
DARKSEID'S
SLAVE.

IT WILL
RESIST.
BUT WE HAVE
THE **POWER**
THIS DAY IS
OURS!

LET
THE
BATTLE
BEGIN!

THE **DARK
LORD**
FLIPS A
SWITCH AND
THE ETHER
IS FILLED
WITH...

POWER!

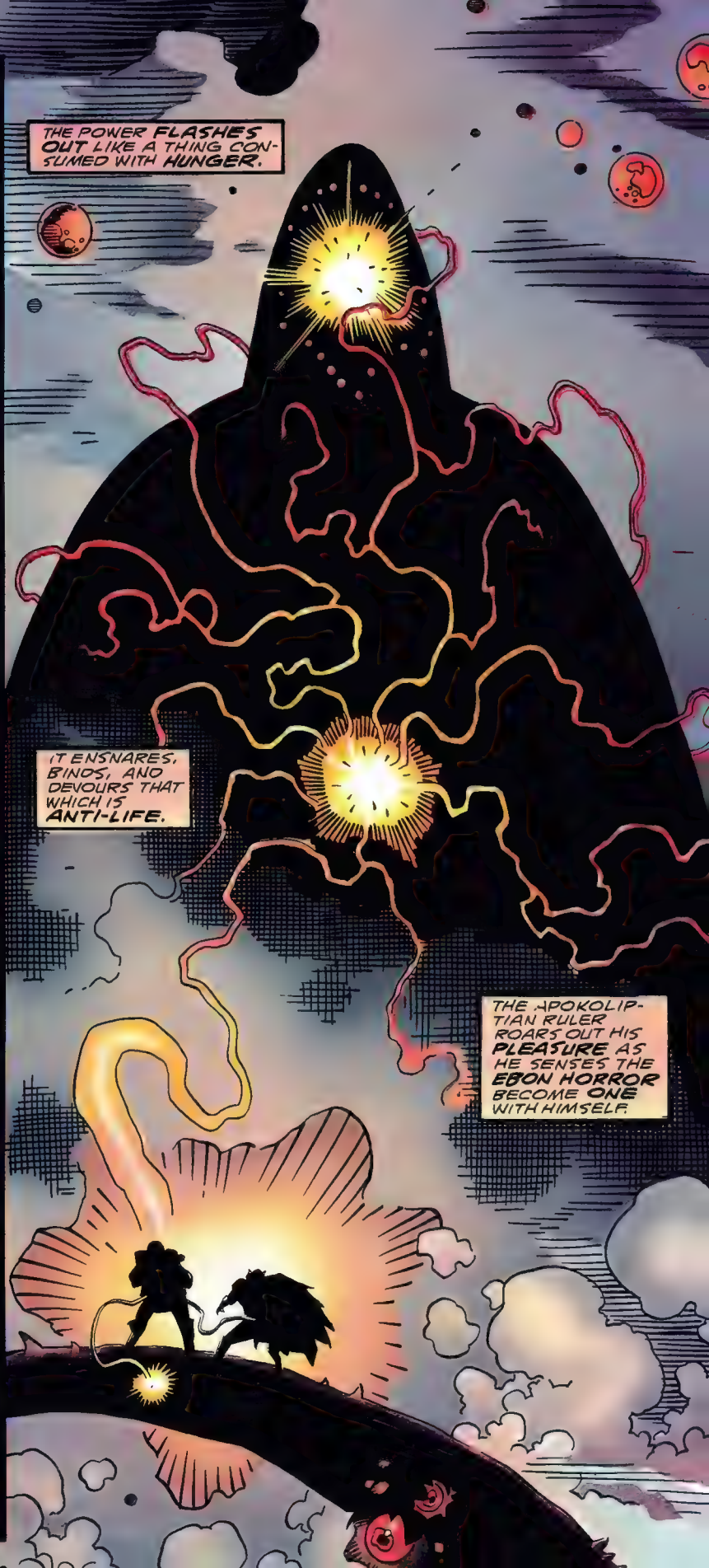
FOR ETRIGAN, REALITY BECOMES A **BLACK VOID** AS HE IS TRANSFORMED INTO A CONDUIT TO THE WELL OF PRIMAL MYSTIC FORCES.

DARKSEID LAUGHS AS HE FEELS THIS MIGHT MINGLE WITH HIS OWN **BLACK STRENGTH**.

THE POWER FLASHES OUT LIKE A THING CONSUMED WITH **HUNGER**.

IT ENSNARES, BINDS, AND DEVOURS THAT WHICH IS **ANTI-LIFE**.

THE APOKALIP-TIAN RULER ROARS OUT HIS **PLEASURE** AS HE SENSES THE **EBON HORROR** BECOME ONE WITH HIMSELF.



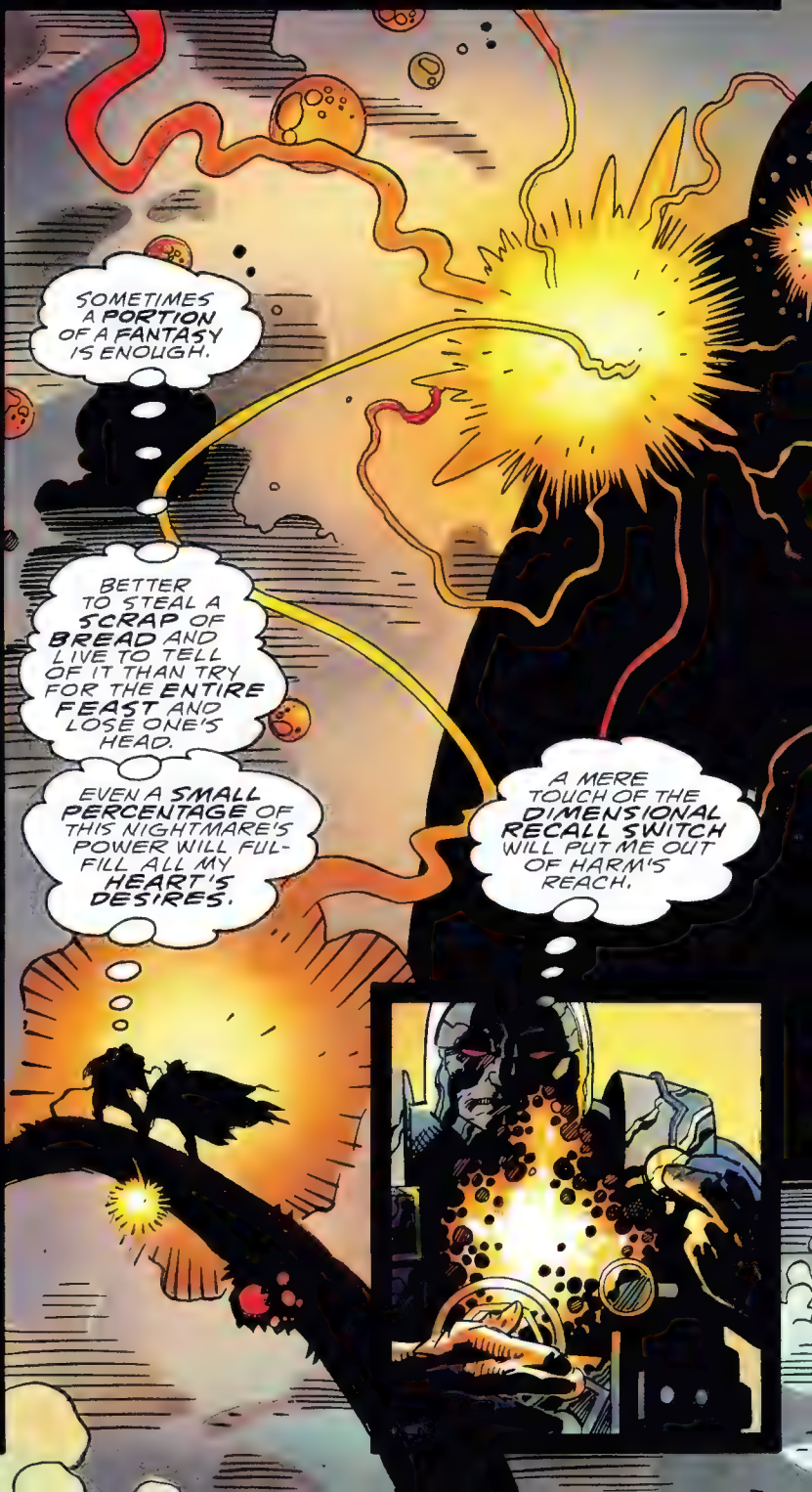
BUT DARKSEID'S NERVE-GRATING SCREECH TURNS TO A WAIL OF FRUSTRATION AS THE ANTI-LIFE EXERTS BUT A FRACTION OF ITS MIGHT AND REGAINS ITS FREEDOM.



THIS TERROR IS FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN EVEN I DARED DREAM!

ULTIMATE DEATH WAITS ONLY A MICRO-SECOND AWAY.

I MUST ACT QUICKLY OR ALL IS LOST!



SOMETIMES A PORTION OF A FANTASY IS ENOUGH.

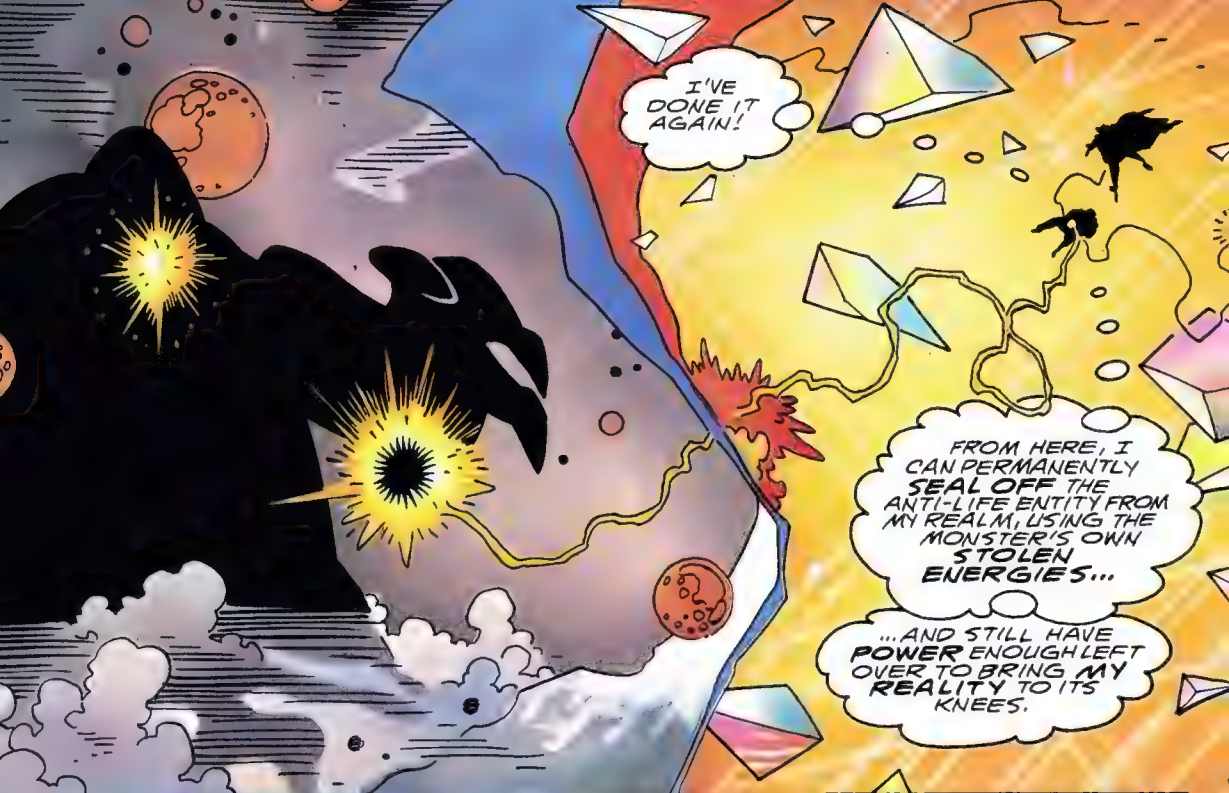
BETTER TO STEAL A SCRAP OF BREAD AND LIVE TO TELL OF IT THAN TRY FOR THE ENTIRE FEAST AND LOSE ONE'S HEAD.

EVEN A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THIS NIGHTMARE'S POWER WILL FULFILL ALL MY HEART'S DESIRES.

A MERE TOUCH OF THE DIMENSIONAL RECALL SWITCH WILL PUT ME OUT OF HARM'S REACH.

A MISCALCULATION. A FATAL MISCALCULATION.





I'VE
DONE IT
AGAIN!

FROM HERE, I
CAN PERMANENTLY
SEAL OFF THE
ANTI-LIFE ENTITY FROM
MY REALM, USING THE
MONSTER'S OWN
STOLEN
ENERGIES...

...AND STILL HAVE
POWER ENOUGH LEFT
OVER TO BRING MY
REALITY TO ITS
KNEES.



ALL THOSE YEARS
OF SCHEMING AND
PLOTING WILL
FINALLY GAIN ME
THE UNIVERSE!

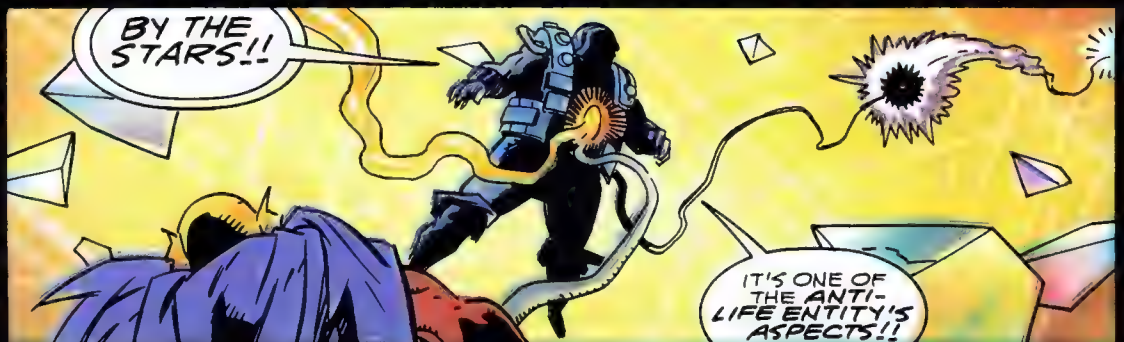
NOW NOTHING
CAN STOP ME!

NOTHING!



WAIT!!
I'M PICKING
UP A STRANGE
READING...

WHAT?



BY THE
STARS!!

IT'S ONE OF
THE ANTI-
LIFE ENTITY'S
ASPECTS!!



HAVE TO
SET UP A
DEFENSE
SCREEN!
MUST...



NO TIME!

NO TIME!



WHAT...?
WHAT HAP-
PENED?

THAT'S
RIGHT...THERE
WAS AN OVER-
LOAD ON THE
HARNESS'S
CIRCUITRY...

WHERE
ARE WE?



DAMNATION.

NEW GENESIS, THE
FLOATING CITY KNOWN
AS THE CITADEL,
SOMETIMES CALLED
SUPERTOWN.

WHERE'S
EVERYBODY
GONE?



HIGHFATHER,
DARKSEID, AND THAT
FELLOW JASON BLOOD
WERE SUPPOSED TO
STAY HERE TO MAN
THE COMMAND
CENTER.

WHAT
COULD HAVE
BECOME OF
THEM?

THINK
DARKSEID
PULLED
SOMETHING
WHILE
WE WERE
GONE?

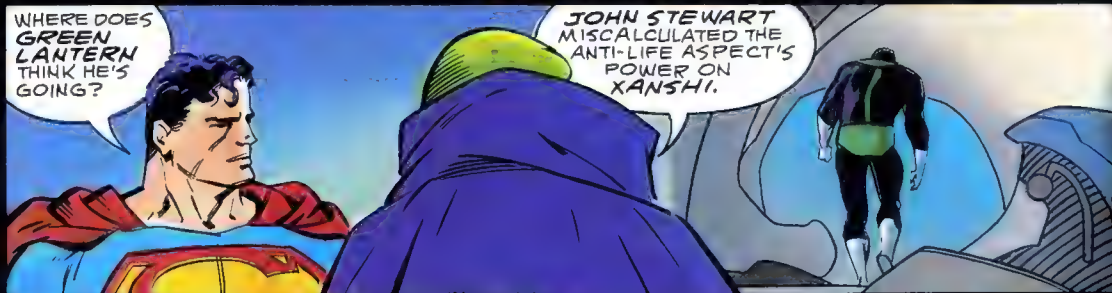
I DO
NOT LIKE
THIS.

I KNOW
WHAT YOU
MEAN. IT
FEELS
WRONG.



WHERE DOES
GREEN
LANTERN
THINK HE'S
GOING?

JOHN STEWART
MISCALCULATED THE
ANTI-LIFE ASPECT'S
POWER ON
KANSHI.



BECAUSE
OF THAT,
THE STAR-
SYSTEM
WAS DE-
STROYED.

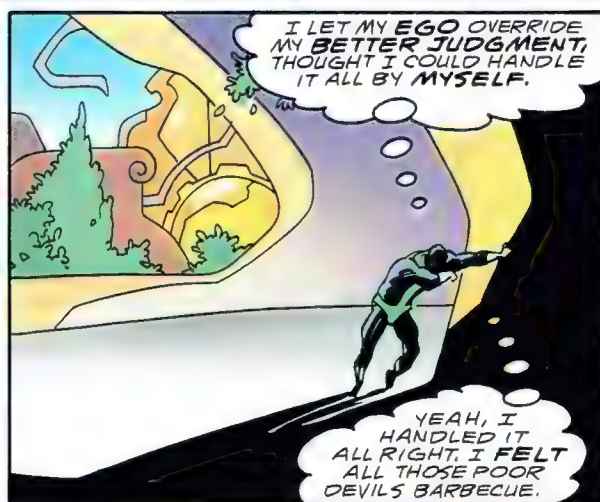
I BELIEVE
STEWART IS
HAVING A
HARD TIME
DEALING
WITH THAT.

I SCREWED
UP AND A
WORLD
DIED.

BECAUSE OF
ME, MILLIONS
OF PEOPLE
PERISHED.



ALL MY
FAULT...



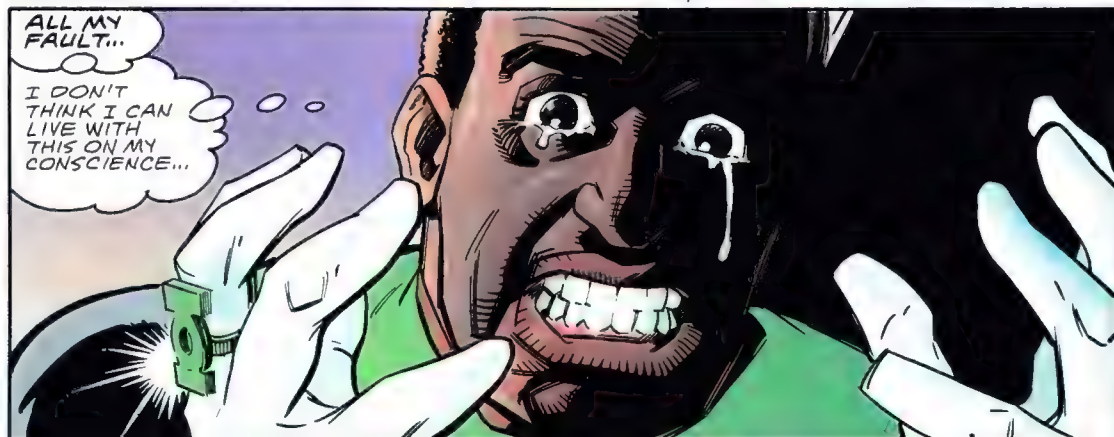
I LET MY EGO OVERRIDE MY BETTER JUDGMENT, THOUGHT I COULD HANDLE IT ALL BY MYSELF.

YEAH, I HANDLED IT ALL RIGHT. I FELT ALL THOSE POOR DEVILS BARBECUE.



I HEARD THEIR DEATH CRIES THROUGH MY RING, SHARED THEIR FEAR AND AGONY.

EVEN WITH ALL MY POWER, THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO TO MAKE UP FOR THAT ONE DAMN BLUNDER!



ALL MY FAULT...

I DON'T THINK I CAN LIVE WITH THIS ON MY CONSCIENCE...



EARTH.

THE UNIVERSE IS A THING OF PAIN AND DARKNESS. CARTILAGE IN MY NECK IS ABOUT TO GO.



DELIVERANCE.

OR AT LEAST A REPRIEVE.

EVEN AS I HIT THE FLOOR, I REALIZE THAT THIS IS ONLY A TEMPORARY STAY OF EXECUTION.

FORAGER'S HURLING HIMSELF AT THE BRUTE.

HE'S NO MATCH FOR THAT TERROR.

KA-THOOK!

EVEN FROM WHERE I LIE, I CAN HEAR FORAGER'S RIBS GO.

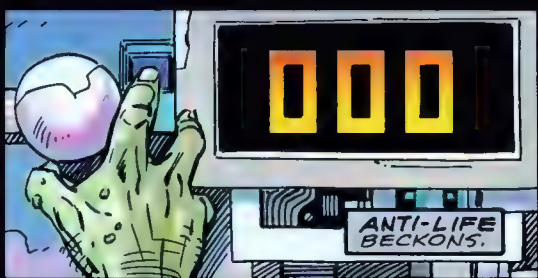
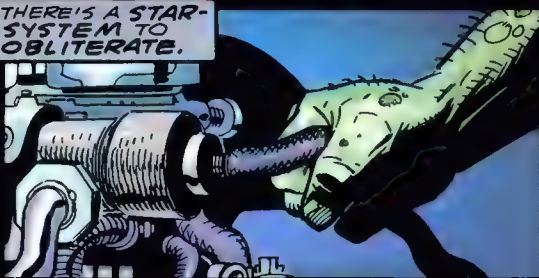
I GUESS THE ASPECT FINALLY DECIDES WE'RE NO LONGER ANY THREAT TO HIS PLANS.

HE'S BUSTED US UP ENOUGH.

HE'S GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO THAN TOY WITH US.

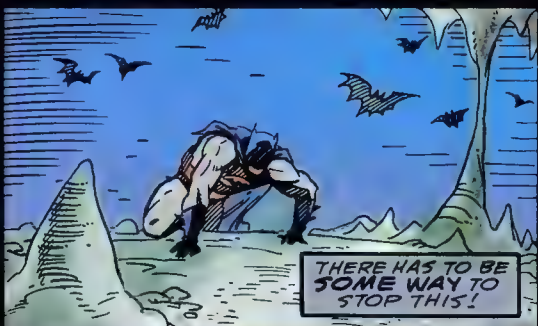
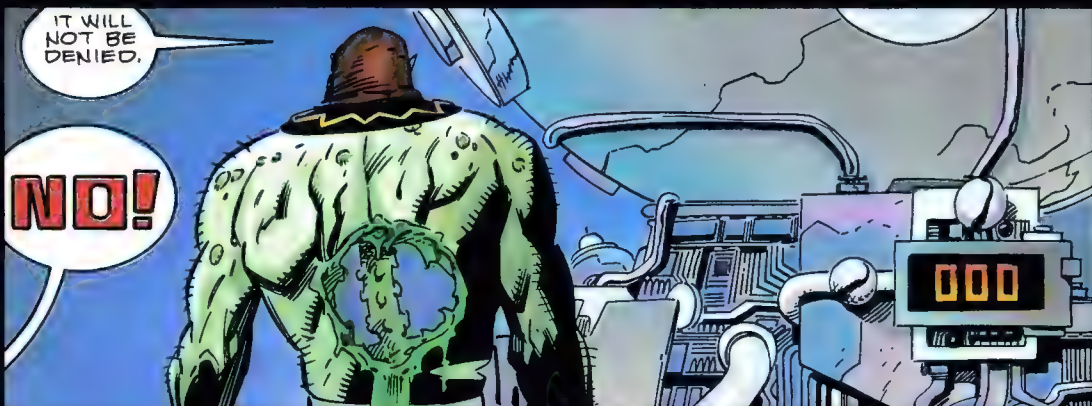
THERE'S A DOOMSDAY DEVICE THAT NEEDS REPAIRING.

THERE'S A STAR-SYSTEM TO OBLITERATE.



IT WILL NOT BE DENIED.

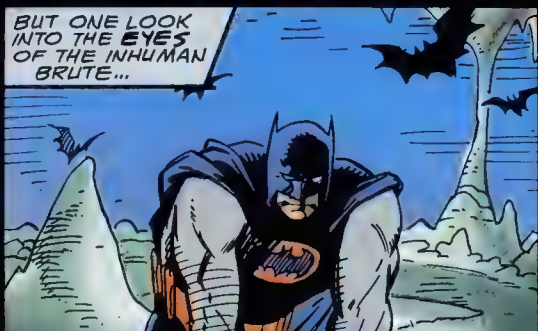
NO!



THINK, MAN! THINK!



BUT ONE LOOK INTO THE EYES OF THE INHUMAN BRUTE...



...TELLS ME THAT SALVATION IS A PIPE DREAM.



BUT I STILL HAVE TO TRY.



WHAT OTHER CHOICE HAVE I?



"ANTI-LIFE IS
ON ITS WAY."

ALL
CIRCUITS
BURNT
OUT...

NOTHING
FUNCTION-
ING...

DARKSEID,
WHAT
TRANSPIRES
HERE?

'TIS
DEATH
THAT DOOTH
DRAW
NEAR!

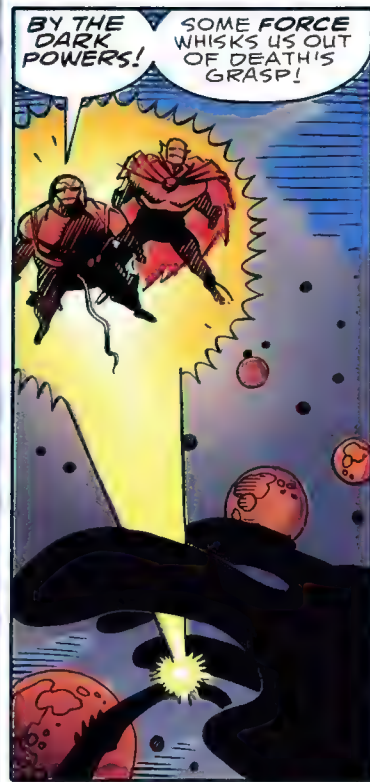
IT JUST
CANNOT
END LIKE
THIS!

I WAS
SO CLOSE...
SO CLOSE...

WHAT?!

BY THE DARK POWERS!

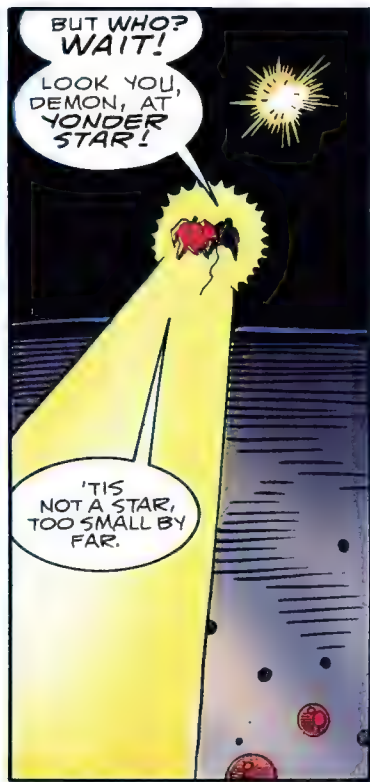
SOME FORCE WHISKS US OUT OF DEATH'S GRASP!



BUT WHO? WAIT!

LOOK YOU, DEMON, AT YONDER STAR!

'TIS NOT A STAR, TOO SMALL BY FAR.



YOU'RE RIGHT, HELL-SPAWN.

IT'S HIGH-FATHER, ORION, AND ANOTHER WHOM I KNOW AS...



...DR. FATE,
THE MYSTIC!

A FRIEND OF BATMAN, WHO ASKED ME TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOU, VILLAIN.

THANK THE HEAVENS THAT I HONORED THAT REQUEST.

FOR I AM THE ONLY HOPE YOU HAVE LEFT!



FORTUNATELY
EACH OF US IS
LINKED WITH
A DIFFERENT
ELEMENTAL
SOURCE
OF NEAR-
INFINITE
POWER!

"ONLY BY
POOLING
THESE RE-
SOURCES
CAN WE
HOPE TO
SAVE THE
DAY."

"I APOLOGIZE
FOR THE PAIN
THIS MOVE WILL
CAUSE YOU."

IT IS
DONE! THE
CINQUE
OF COSMIC
POWER IS
FORMED!

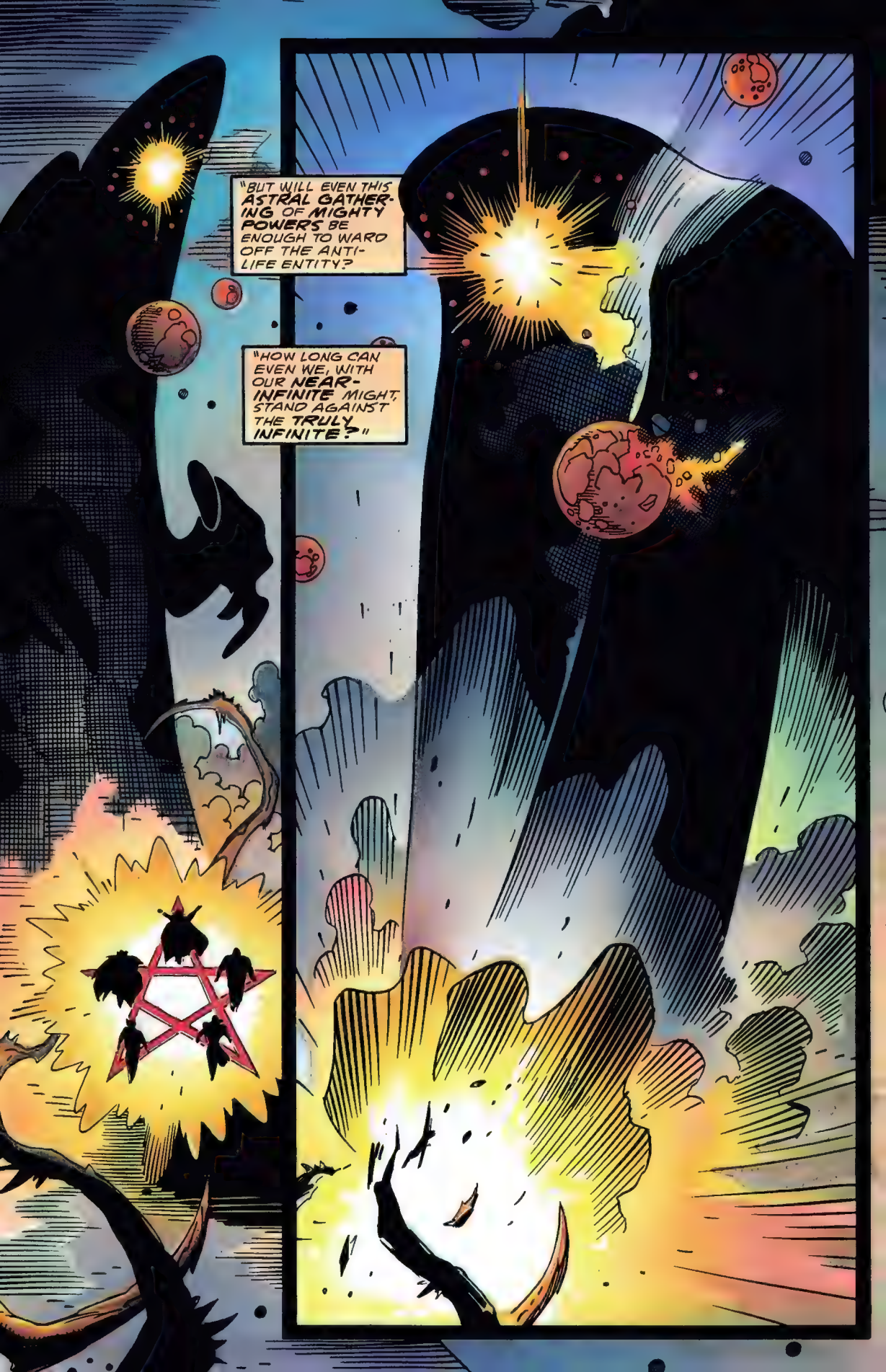
I CONTROL
THIS UNION,
BEING A
CREATURE OF
INTELLECTUAL
MAGICS.

**HIGH-
FATHER**
ADDS TO THE
PENTAGRAM
WITH HIS
CONNECTION
TO THE
SOURCE.

AS DOES
ORION WITH
HIS CON-
NECTION
TO THE
SAME.

ETRIGAN
AUGMENTS OUR
MIGHT BY TAPPING
INTO **PRIMAL**
MYSTICAL
FORCES
BEYOND MY
CALLING.

AND LASTLY
THERE IS **DARK-
SEID**, AN ACOLYTE
OF **ANTI-LIFE**
ITSELF, ENABLING
US TO TURN SOME
OF OUR NEM-
ESIS'S OWN MIGHT
AGAINST IT!



"BUT WILL EVEN THIS
ASTRAL GATHER-
ING OF MIGHTY
POWERS BE
ENOUGH TO WARD
OFF THE ANTI-
LIFE ENTITY?"

"HOW LONG CAN
EVEN WE, WITH
OUR **NEAR-
INFINITE** MIGHT,
STAND AGAINST
THE **TRULY
INFINITE**?"

LONG
ENOUGH TO
PREVAIL!



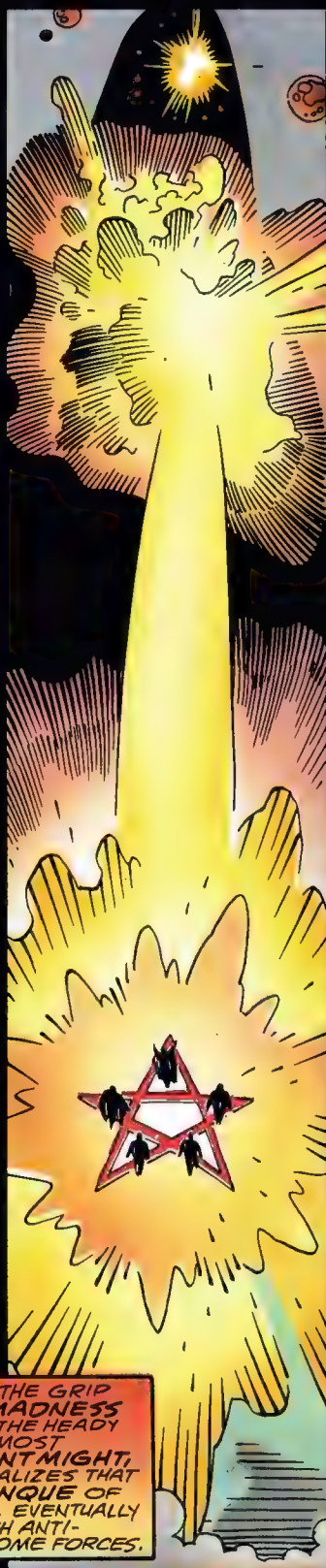
GET THEE
BACK TO THE
DARK RECESSES
OF YOUR UN-
REALITY,
MONSTER!

LET THE
LIGHT
PREVAIL!



BUT EVEN IN THE GRID
OF NEAR-MADNESS
CAUSED BY THE HEADY
FEEL OF ALMOST
OMNIPOTENT MIGHT,
DR. FATE REALIZES THAT
EVEN THE CINQUE OF
POWER WILL EVENTUALLY
FALL BENEATH ANTI-
LIFE'S AWESOME FORCES.

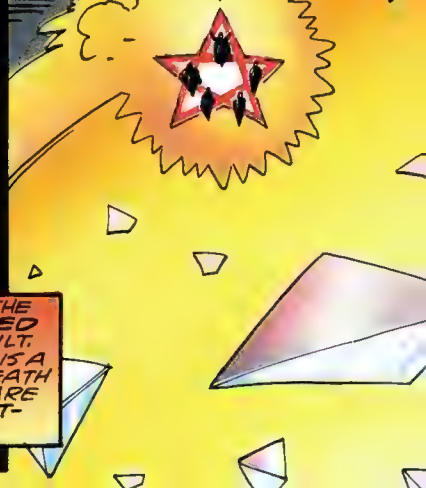
FATE HAS CAUGHT THE
ENTITY UNPREPARED
FOR SUCH AN ASSAULT.
BUT THE ADVANTAGE IS A
FLEETING ONE. DEATH
AND ANNIHILATION ARE
STILL ONLY A HEART-
BEAT AWAY.



'TIS AN
ANCIENT CLICHÉ
THAT **DISCRETION**
BE THE BETTER
PART OF
VALOR.

BUT IN
THIS CASE,
THE **TRUTH**
RINGS
SOUND.

A PARALLEL
DIMENSION AND
ESCAPE AWAIT
US, MY
COMRADES.





BUT THIS
IS AT BEST A
TEMPORARY
REFUGE.

THE ENTITY'S
MIGHT WILL
EVENTUALLY
GAIN HIM
ACCESS
TO THIS
REALM.

AND
FORCES ARE
AT WORK BACK
IN OUR OWN
REALITY THAT
MAY YET GAIN
HIM HIS
VICTORY.



I CAN DO
NOTHING ABOUT
THAT, BUT I CAN
HALT ANTI-LIFE'S
ADVANCE
ALONG THIS
AVENUE.

A MYSTIC
FIREBREAK
MUST BE
CREATED.



I HAVE
THE
POWER
TO DO
JUST
THAT.

BUT
DO I
HAVE THE
RIGHT?



A FOOLISH
QUESTION,
FATE.

YOU
REALLY
HAVE NO
CHOICE
IN THE
MATTER.



ANTI-
LIFE'S EVER-
WIDENING
INFLUENCE
MUST BE
CHECKED.

TO
ACCOMPLISH
THAT, THIS
DIMENSION
MUST BE
DESTROYED!

THE WHISPERED
SPELL BEGINS A
CHAIN REACTION
THAT CANNOT BE
STOPPED.

A REALITY
DIES.

FATE WONDERES
IF ANYTHING
LIVED WITHIN
THIS CHAOTIC
REALM TO
BEGIN WITH.

HE TELLS HIMSELF
THAT HE HAD NO
OTHER OPTION.
IT WAS THIS
DIMENSION OR
HIS OWN.

HE REALIZES HE'LL HAVE
MANY A LONG AND
SLEEPLESS NIGHT TO
PONDER THIS QUESTION.

WHAT
THE
DEVIL'S
THIS?!

I THINK IT'S
THE ANSWER
TO WHERE
EVERYBODY
WENT.

DR. FATE!
WHAT GOES
ON HERE?



THE THREAT
OF THE ANTI-
LIFE ENTITY
IS FOREVER
ENDED.

WE FACED THE
NIGHTMARE AND
STRANDED IT
WITHIN ITS
OWN REALM.

HOW?

THE BRIDG-
ING DIMENSION
BETWEEN
OUR REALITY
AND ITS
HAS BEEN
ERADICATED.

MAY
THE GODS
FORGIVE
ME...



DAMN
YOU,
FATE!

YOU USED ME TO
ACCOMPLISH YOUR
CLEVER LITTLE
SCHEME!

YOU
MADE A
PUPPET
OF ME!



AS YOU HAVE
DONE TO MANY
OTHERS.

YOU'LL
PAY FOR THIS
INDIGNITY!

NOT TODAY
HE WON'T.



NOT UNLESS
YOU'RE WILLING
TO TAKE US ALL
ON TO DO IT.



MY
APOLOGIES.

I WAS
OUT OF
LINE.

THAT IS NO WAY
FOR A MONARCH
TO ACT TOWARD
HIS ALLIES.



THEN IT LOOKS LIKE
EVERYTHING'S
WORKED OUT
JUST FINE!

THE **GOOD**
GUYS HAVE WON
THE DAY!

HAVE
THEY? WHAT DO YOU
MEAN, HIGHFATHER?



WE STILL DON'T
KNOW IF **BATMAN**
AND **FORAGER**
HAVE STOPPED
EARTH'S
ASPECT.

IF IT SUCCEEDS
IN **DESTROYING**
YOUR STAR SYSTEM, THE
MILKY WAY IS DOOMED,
ANTI-LIFE ENTITY OR
NO ANTI-LIFE ENTITY.



BUT CAN
THAT
ASPECT
STILL
SURVIVE,
CUT OFF
AS IT IS
FROM ITS
MASTER?

I SENSE IT **CAN**
AND THAT IT
WILL FINISH
ITS CHOSEN
COURSE IN THE
NAME OF
VENGEANCE,
IF NOTHING
ELSE.

THEN LET'S
HEAD
BACK TO
EARTH
AND GIVE
BATMAN
A HAND!

BUT WHERE
ON EARTH?

IT'S A
BIG
PLANET,
STAR-
FIRE.

I FEAR ALL WE
CAN DO IS WAIT
FOR **BATMAN** AND
FORAGER TO
CALL IN...

...OR TO
HEAR THAT
THE **MILKY**
WAY GALAXY
HAS BEEN
DESTROYED.

29

IT TAKES EVERY
OUNCE OF STRENGTH
I'VE GOT TO KEEP
GOING.

I PAY A KING'S
RANSOM IN
PAIN FOR EVERY
INCH ACROSS THE
FLOOR I GAIN.

28

NOT EVEN SURE
WHAT I'LL DO
ONCE I REACH
THE BEHEMOTH.

WILL THINK OF
SOMETHING.

27

HAVE
TO...

26

KER-THWASH!

25

WHY DO
YOU PERSIST
IN THESE
FUTILE
EFFORTS,
MORTAL?

LIE BACK
AND SAVOR
YOUR LAST
MOMENTS.

MAKE
IT EASY
ON YOUR-
SELF.

WE ARE ON
THE EDGE OF
EPIPHANY.

AN UN-
BELIEVABLE
GLORY IS
ABOUT TO
CARESS
YOUR EX-
ISTENCE.

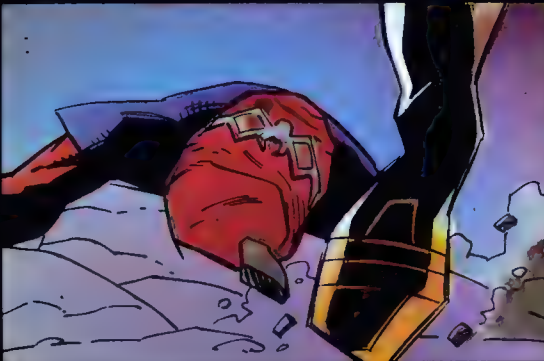
THERE'LL
BE NO MORE
PAIN...

...NO MORE
STRIFE.

THERE
WILL BE
ONLY THE
ETERNAL
CALM OF
ANTI-
LIFE.

23

AND
THERE'S
NOTHING
YOU CAN DO
TO HALT ITS
COMING.



"NO WAY" IS A
TERM I LONG
AGO LEARNED
HAD NO
MEANING.

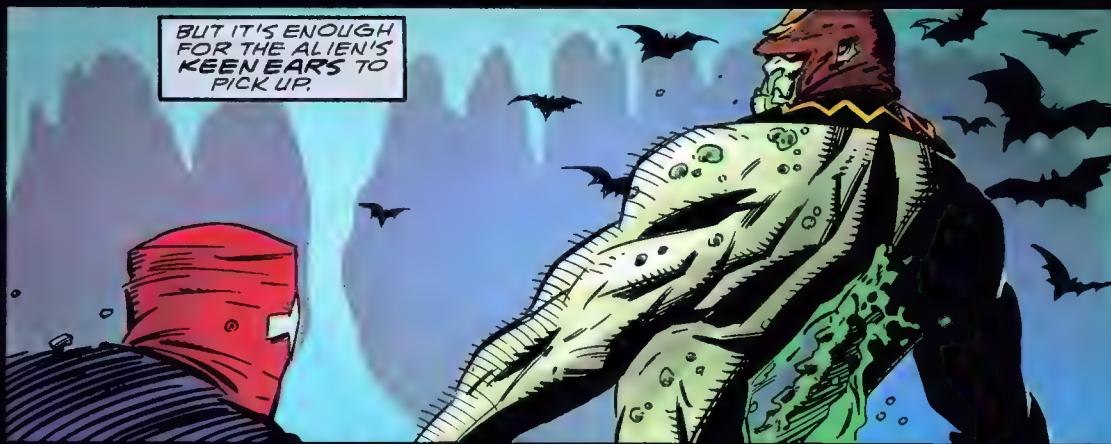


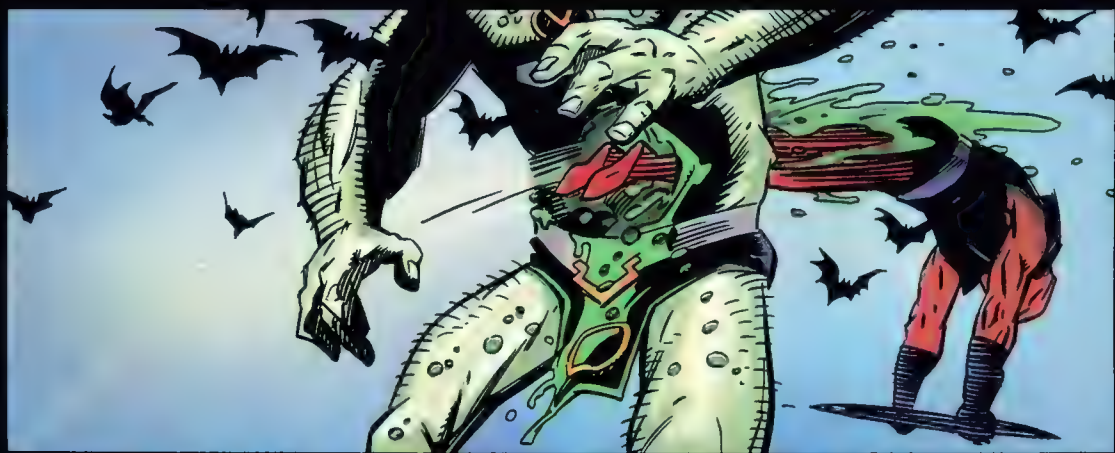
AS LONG AS THERE'S
LIFE AND HOPE,
THERE'S A WAY.

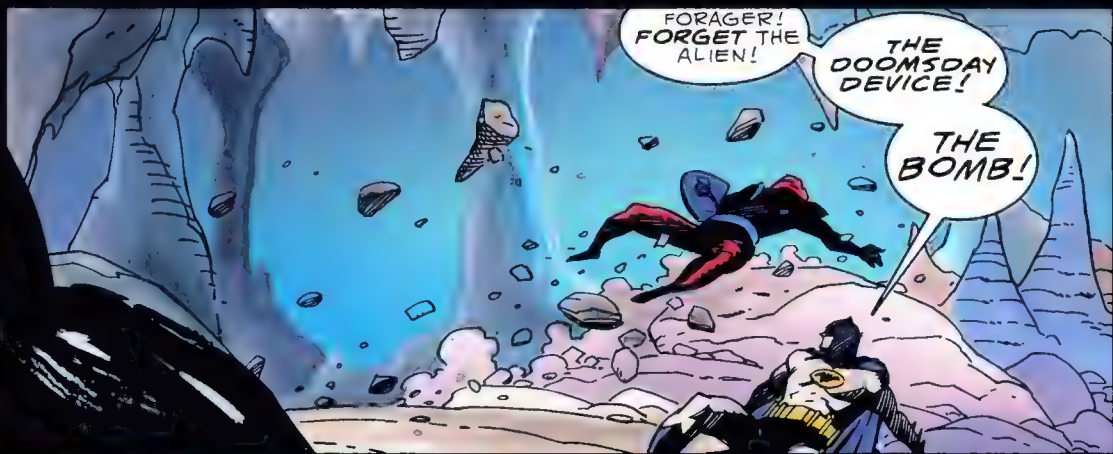
THERE'S JUST THE SLIGHT-
EST SOUND OF METAL
RUBBING AGAINST METAL
AS FORAGER RETRIEVES
HIS SHIELD.



BUT IT'S ENOUGH
FOR THE ALIEN'S
KEEN EARS TO
PICK UP.











IT TAKES ME A MOMENT
OR TWO TO REALIZE
THAT THE WORLD HASN'T
ENDED.

FORAGER
BEAT THE
CLOCK.

HE'S SAVED
EARTH!

BUT AT
WHAT
COST?

FORAGER!

FORAGER?

FORAGER?

FORAGER?

FORAGER,
PLEASE SAY
SOME-
THING...

ANYTHING...

ONLY GRIM
SILENCE
ANSWERS
ME.

OH,
LORD!



UUUUNNGGH...

BATMAN TO NEW
GENESIS. THREAT
TO EARTH
NEUTRALIZED.

COULD
USE SOME
HELP
WITH THE
CLEAN UP,
THOUGH.

BRING
ANOTHER
ASPECT-
CATCHER
WITH
YOU.

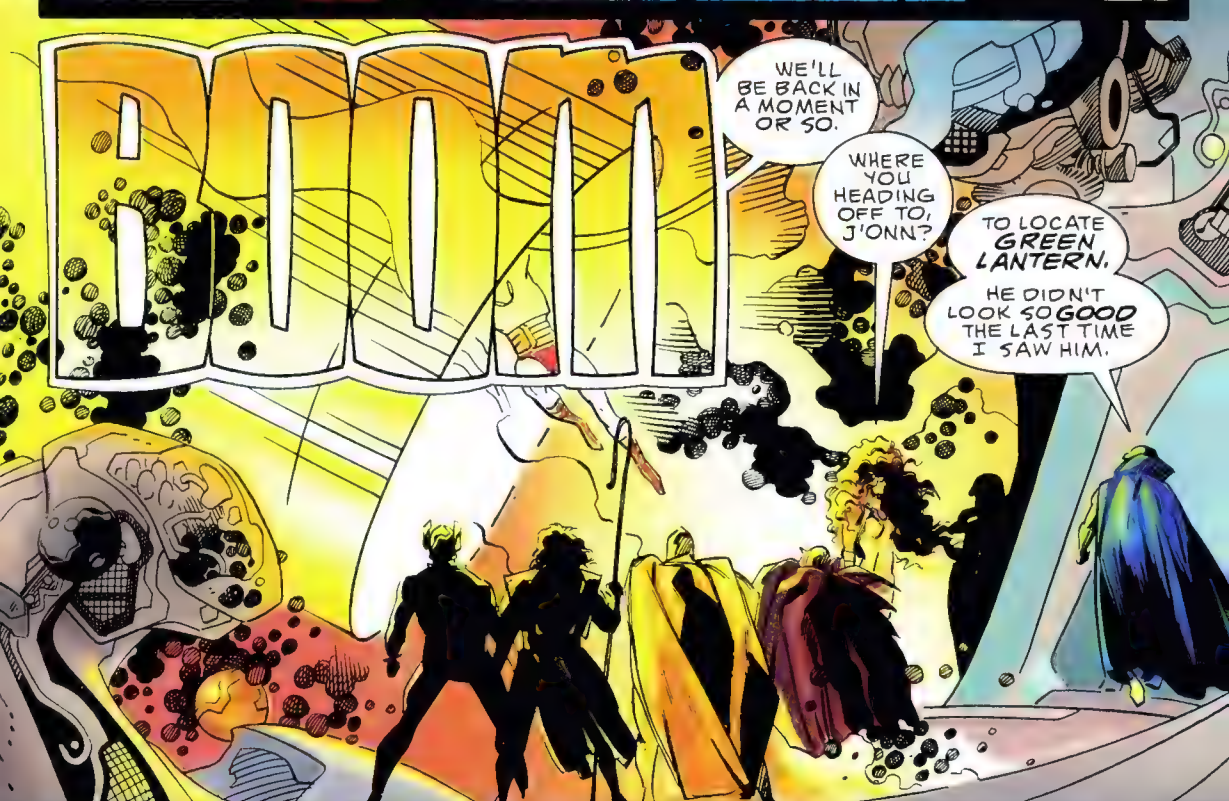
I'VE GOT SOMEONE
WHO NEEDS TO BE PUT
OUT OF HIS
MISERY.

HUUNNGHH...



SUPERMAN
AND I ARE ON
THE WAY.

NOW
WE CAN
RELAX.



BOOM!

WE'LL
BE BACK IN
A MOMENT
OR SO.

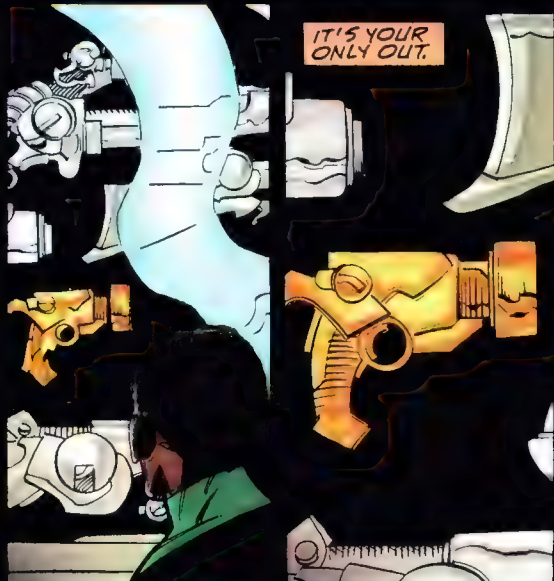
WHERE
YOU
HEADING
OFF TO,
J'ONN?

TO LOCATE
GREEN
LANTERN.
HE DIDN'T
LOOK SO GOOD
THE LAST TIME
I SAW HIM.

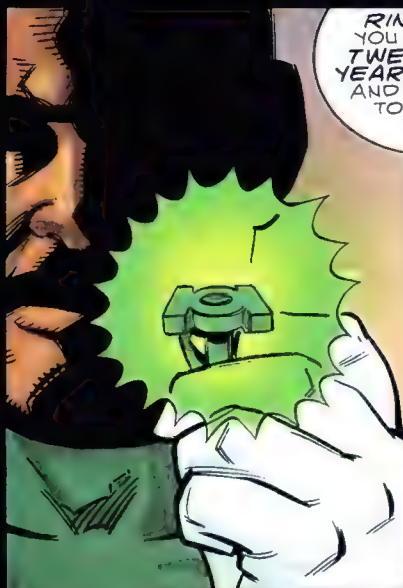


OKAY, YOU'VE
MADE YOUR
DECISION.

SO LET'S
GET TO IT.



IT'S YOUR
ONLY OUT.

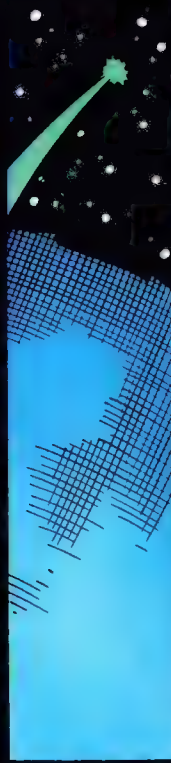
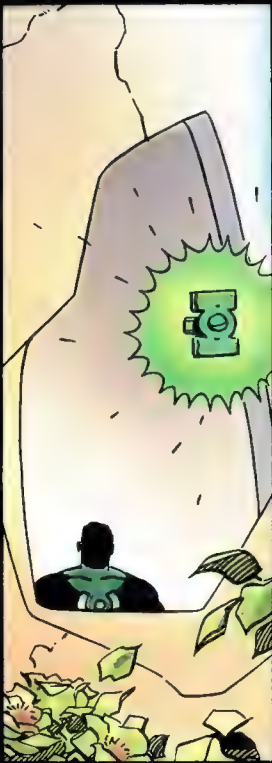


RING, I WANT YOU TO TRAVEL **TWENTY LIGHT YEARS** FROM HERE AND WAIT FOR ME, TO CALL YOU BACK.

IF I DON'T DO THAT WITHIN THE **HOUR**, PRESENT YOURSELF TO **HAL JORDAN**, BACK ON EARTH.

HE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH YOU.
NOW, GO!

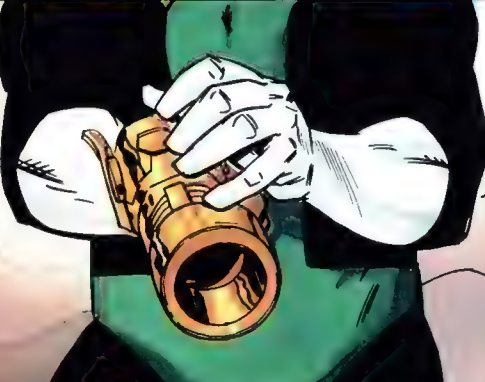




TWENTY
LIGHT-
YEARS...
THAT
OUGHT
TO BE FAR
ENOUGH.



DAMN RING IS
PROGRAMMED
TO PROTECT
ITS WEARER
FROM ALL
PHYSICAL
HARM.



BUT TWENTY LIGHT-
YEARS DISTANCE
SHOULD KEEP IT
FROM INTERFER-
ING.



ONE PULL OF THIS
TRIGGER AND IT'S
ALL OVER.

NO MORE
MEMORIES...



I'M
SORRY,
KAT...

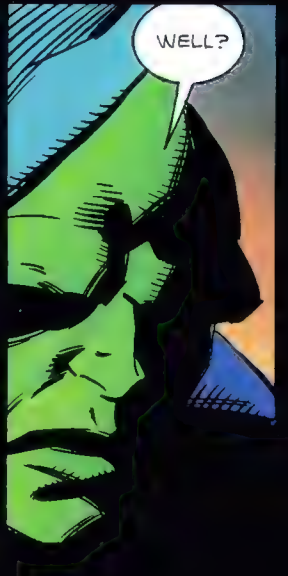
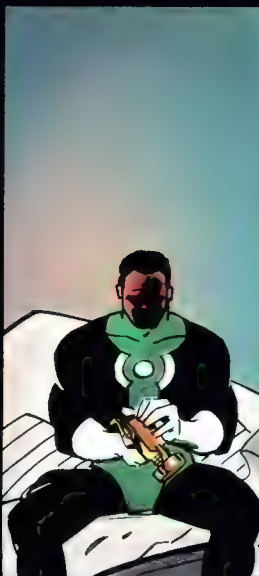
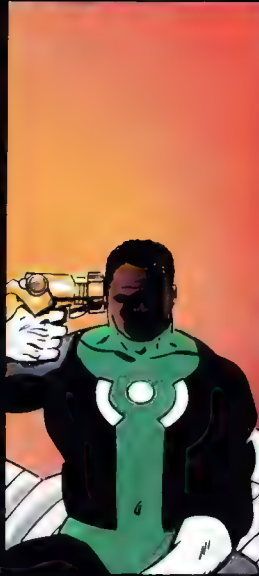
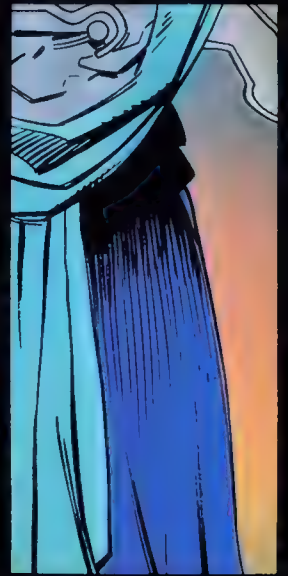
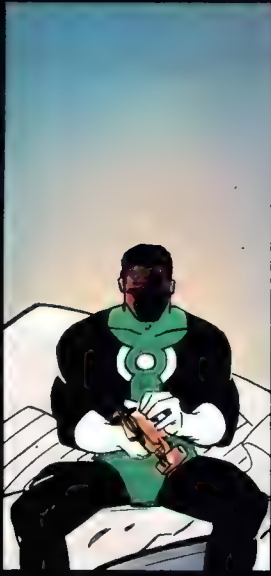


BUT ALL
THOSE PEOPLE
DIED BE-
CAUSE OF
ME...

...BECAUSE
OF ME.



I JUST
CAN'T LIVE
WITH
THAT!



WELL?



ARE YOU GOING TO **KILL YOURSELF** OR NOT?

HUH?

YOU MIGHT AS WELL, IT'S PAINFULLY **APPARENT** THAT YOU'RE NOT **SUITED** FOR THIS LINE OF WORK.

THIS PROFESSION IS A **TOUGH AND UN-FORGIVING CALLING**, DEMANDING STRENGTH AND CHARACTER.

OUR KIND ARE CALLED UPON TO MAKE **CRUCIAL DECISIONS** DAILY AND **ACT** UPON THEM.



WE ALSO HAVE TO BE ABLE TO **LIVE** WITH THE **CONSEQUENCES** OF OUR ACTIONS AND TO **LEARN** FROM OUR **MISTAKES**.



YOU, **JOHN STEWART**, ARE OBVIOUSLY **NOT** STRONG ENOUGH TO HANDLE SUCH **RESPONSIBILITY**.

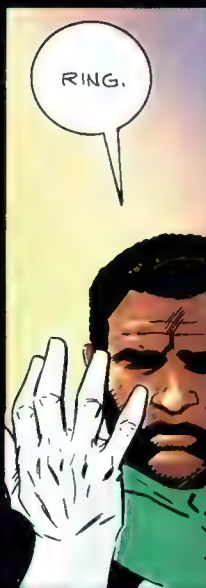
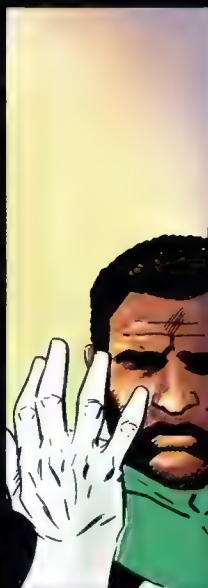
YOU ARE **FLAWED**.

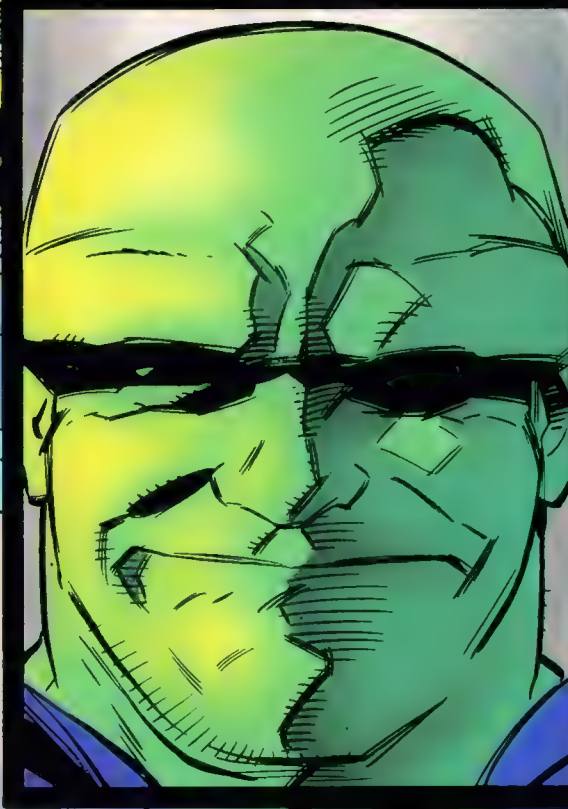


SO DO EVERYONE A **FAVOR** AND FINISH WITH THIS GRISLY ACT OF **SELF-DESTRUCTION**.



I AM SURE **HAL JORDAN** WILL FIND A **NEW** AND MORE **SUITABLE CARETAKER** FOR YOUR POWER RING.





BOOM!







HIS
NAME WAS
FORAGER!!



IT'S ALL OVER,
BATMAN. TIME TO
HEAD HOME.

MAYBE
WE CAN GET
GREEN LANTERN
TO DO SOMETHING
ABOUT YOUR **LEG**
BEFORE WE GO.

SURE...
WHATEVER
YOU SAY...



HEY!

WHERE'S
**DARK-
SEID**?!

GONE.



AND SO ARE
DARKSEID'S EVIL
TOYS WITH THE
ANTI-LIFE
ASPECTS
IMPRISONED
WITHIN
THEM.



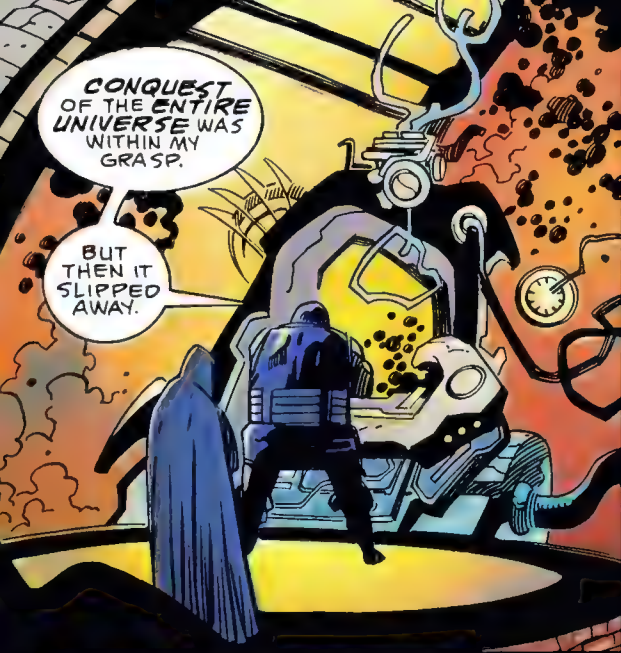
DAMNATION.

HE'S ALWAYS
ONE STEP
AHEAD OF THE
REST OF
US.



APOKOLIPS.

I HAD IT ALL,
DE SAAD.



CONQUEST
OF THE ENTIRE
UNIVERSE WAS
WITHIN MY
GRASP.

BUT
THEN IT
SLIPPED
AWAY.

I REACHED
BEYOND MY
ABILITIES AND
NEARLY LOST
EVERYTHING.

BUT, FORTUNATELY,
I AM QUICK TO LEARN
FROM MY MISTAKES.



THAT IS WHY DARK-
SEID NEVER
LEAVES THE GAME
EMPTY-HANDED.



BEHOLD,
DESAAD... A
SMALL PIECE
OF PURE
ANTI-LIFE!
HA HA HA!

EARTH'S
HEROES
HAVE RE-
TURNED
HOME,
ORION...



I'D LIKE
YOU TO
ACCOMPANY
THE BODY.

...AND I'VE
ARRANGED FOR
FORAGER'S RE-
MAINS TO BE
RETURNED TO
THE INSECT
EMPIRE.



WHY?

THE
TRIP
MIGHT
TEACH
YOU
SOME-
THING.



SUCH
AS?

TOLERANCE.



AS YOU
WISH, HIGH-
FATHER.

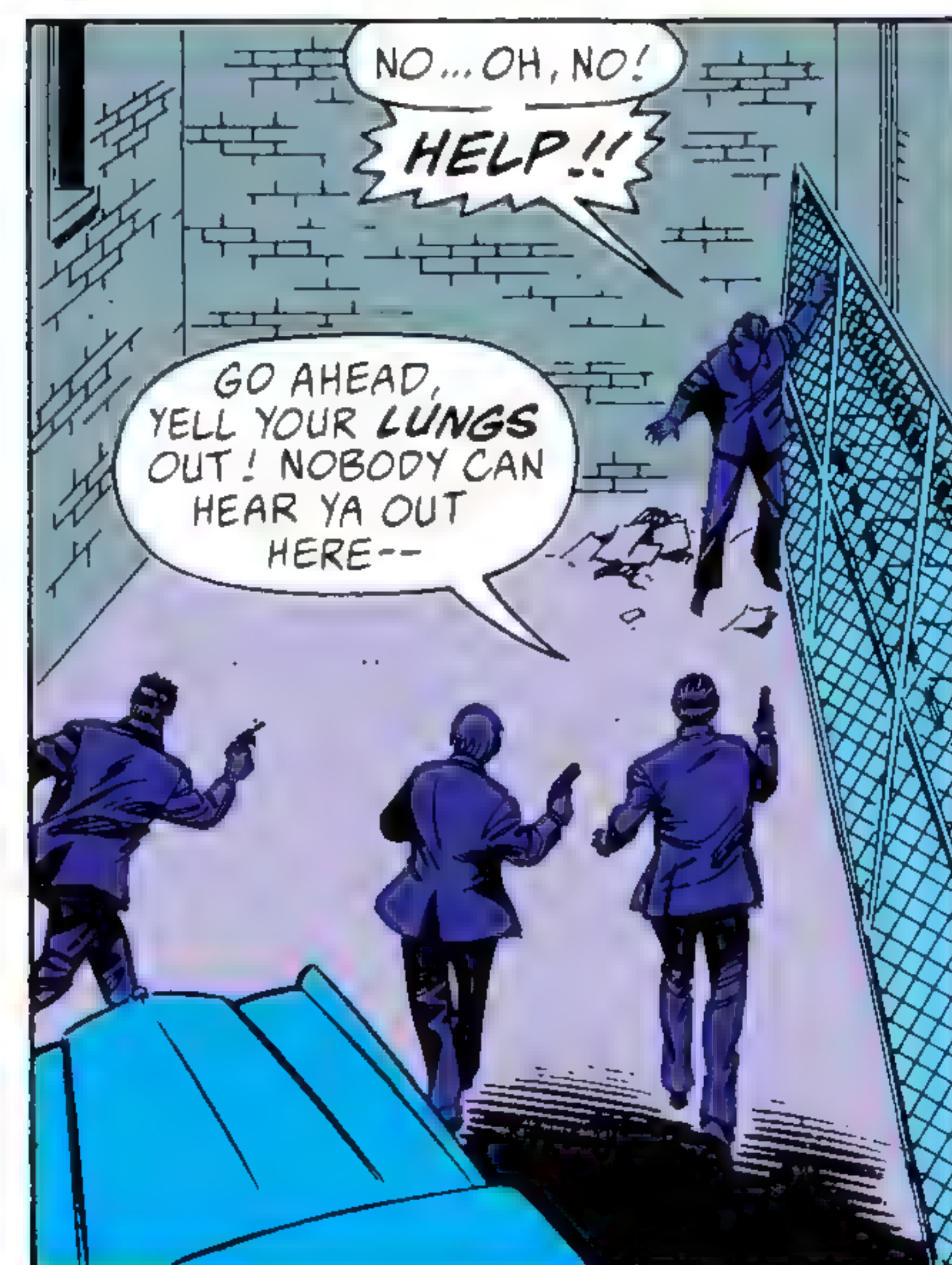
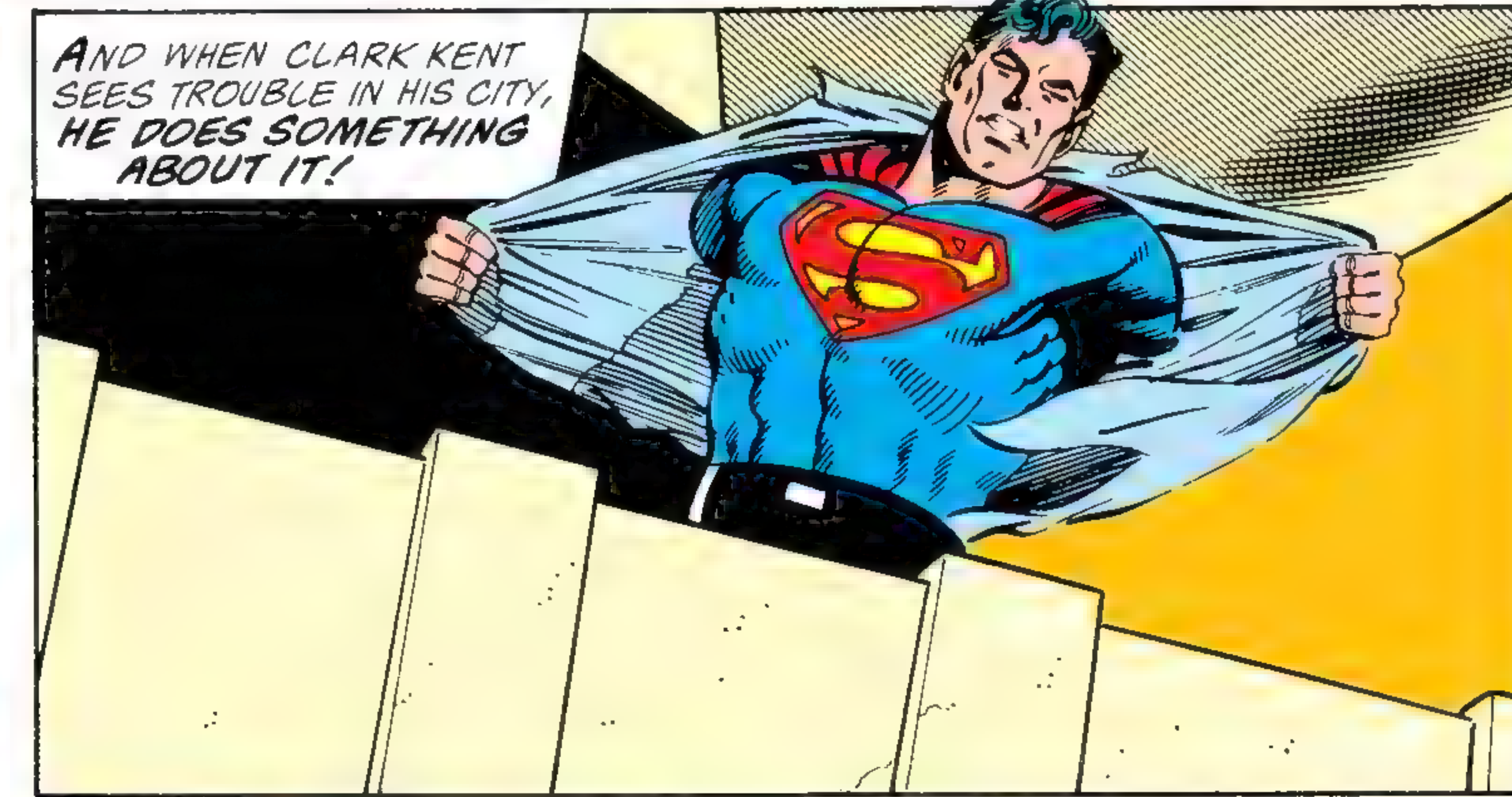
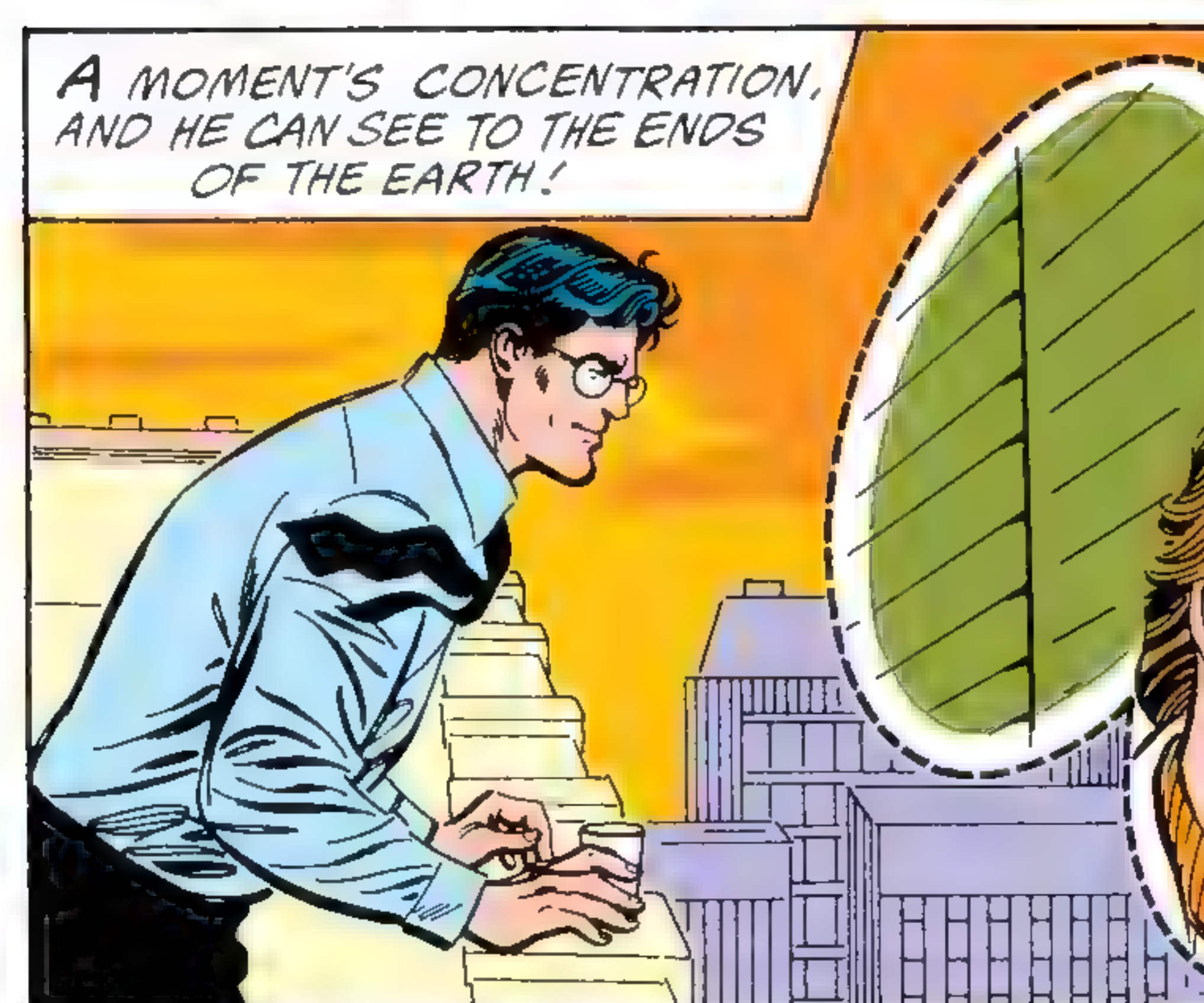
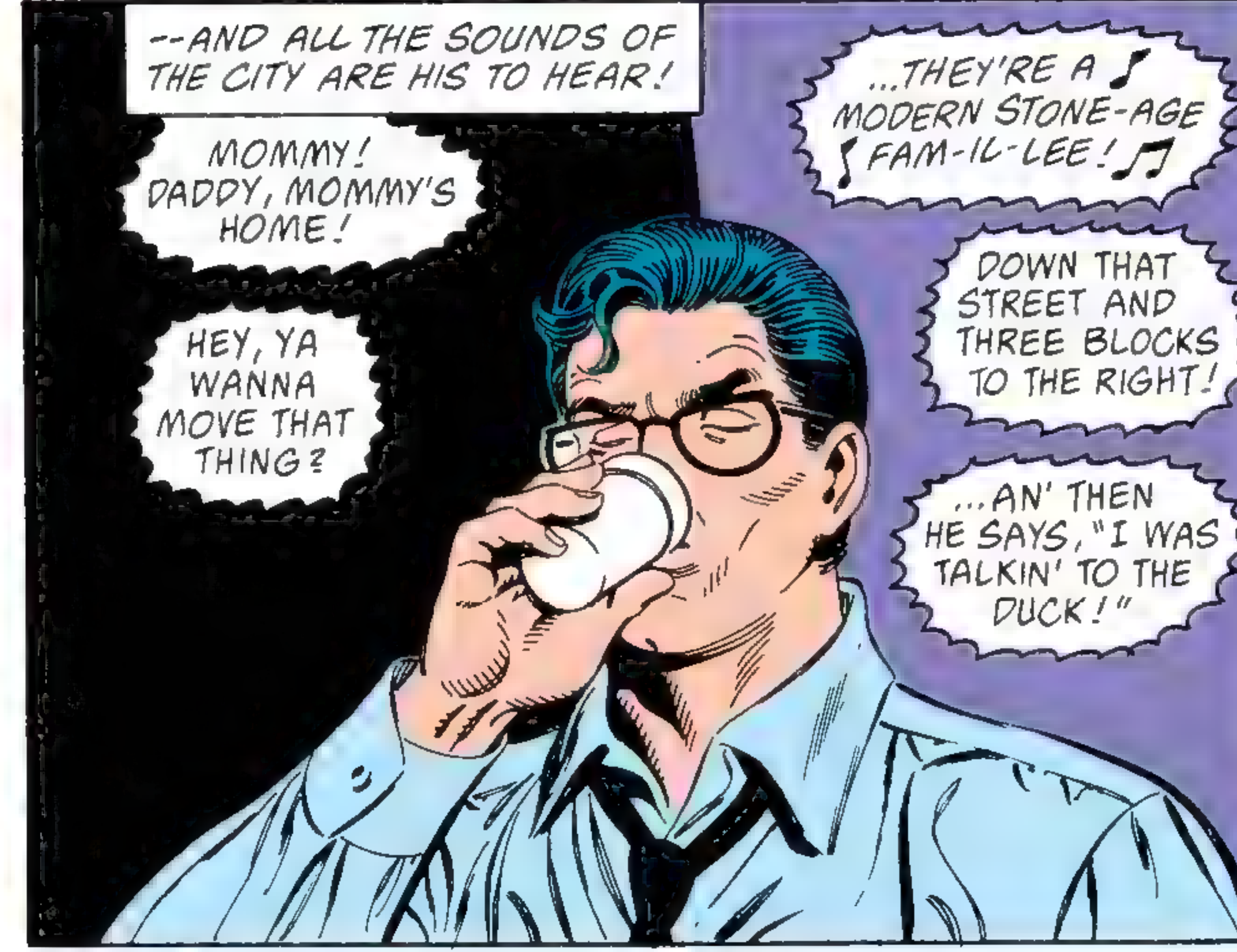
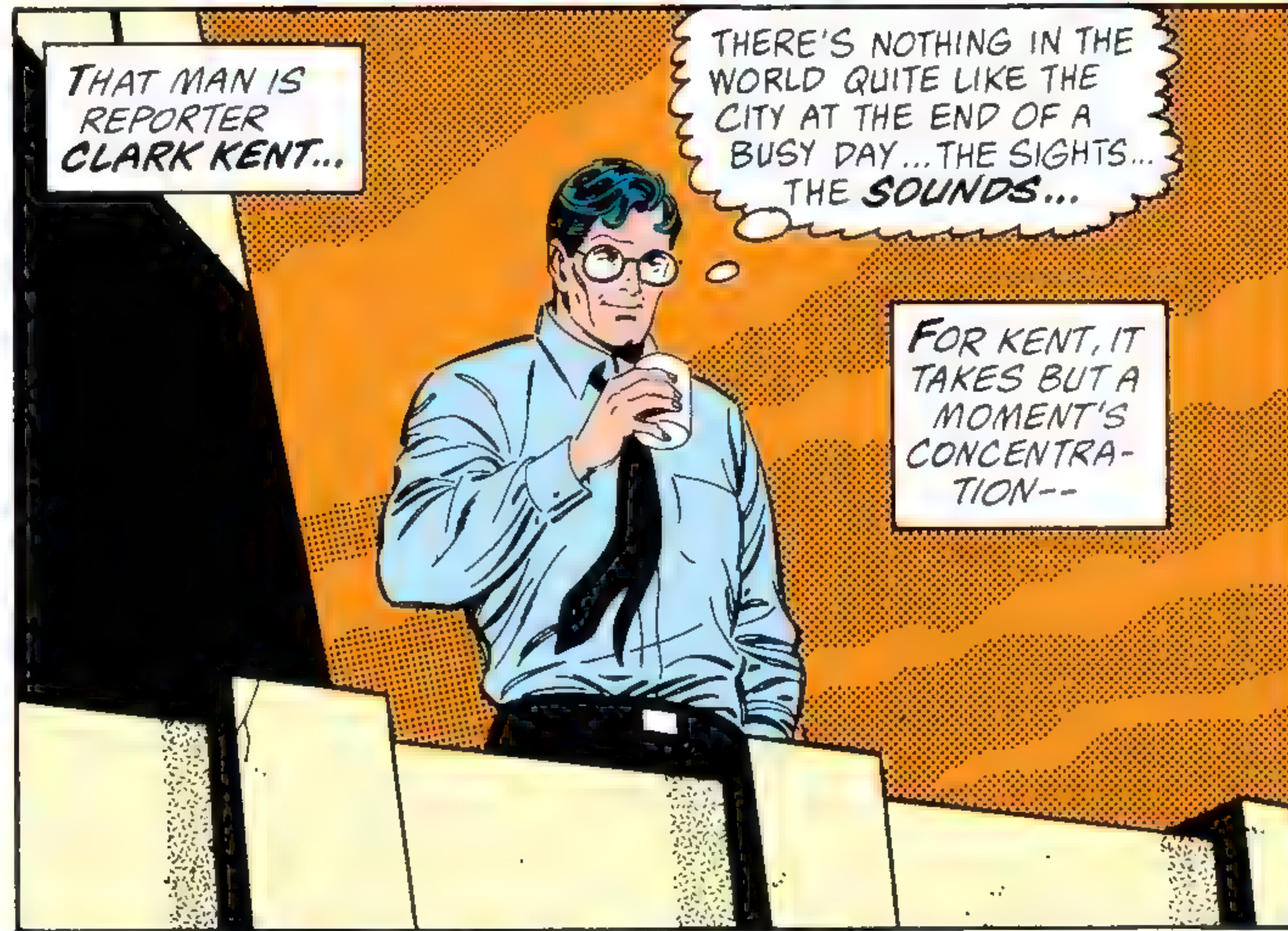
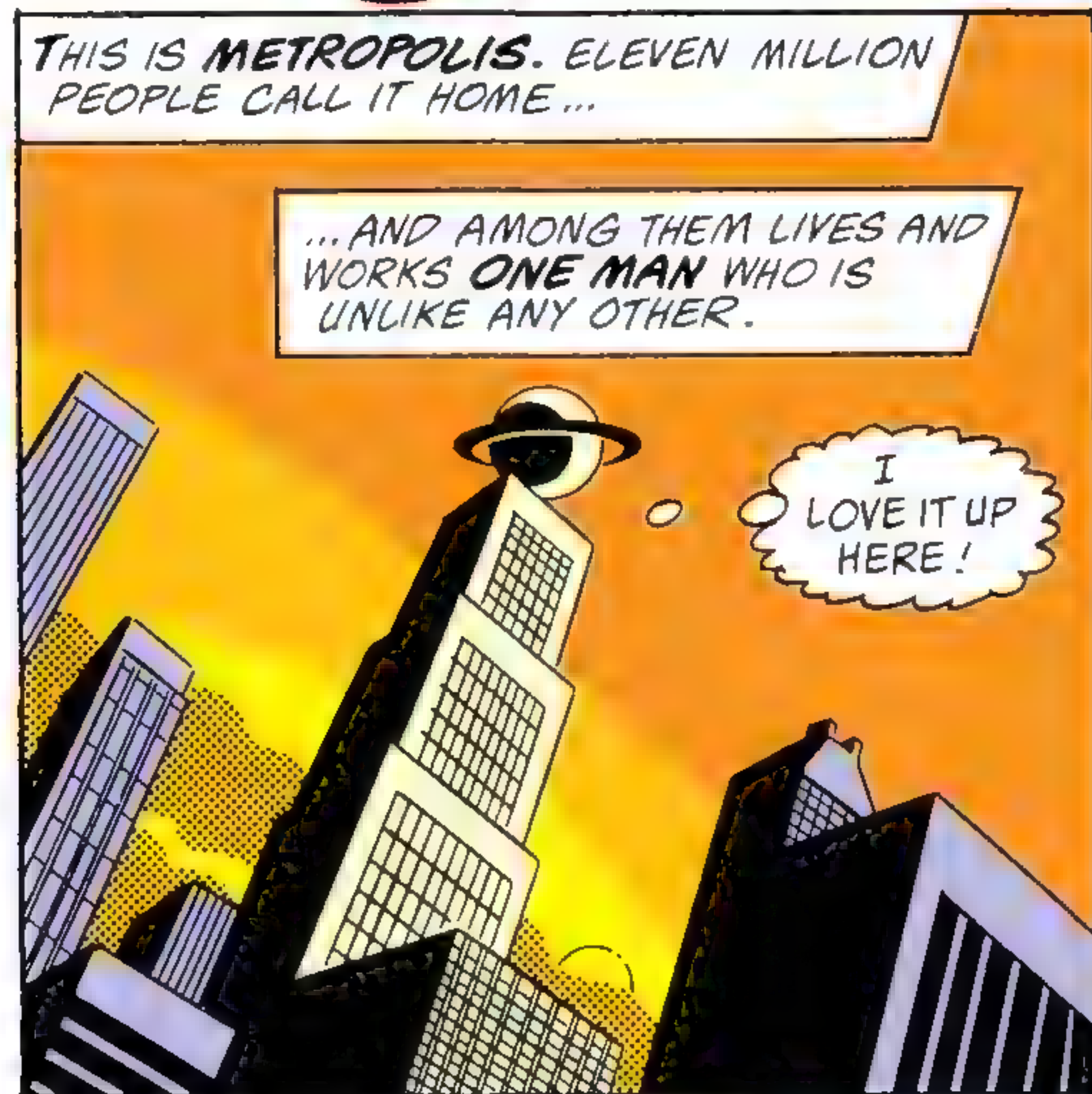




FASTER THAN A

SPEEDING BULLET!

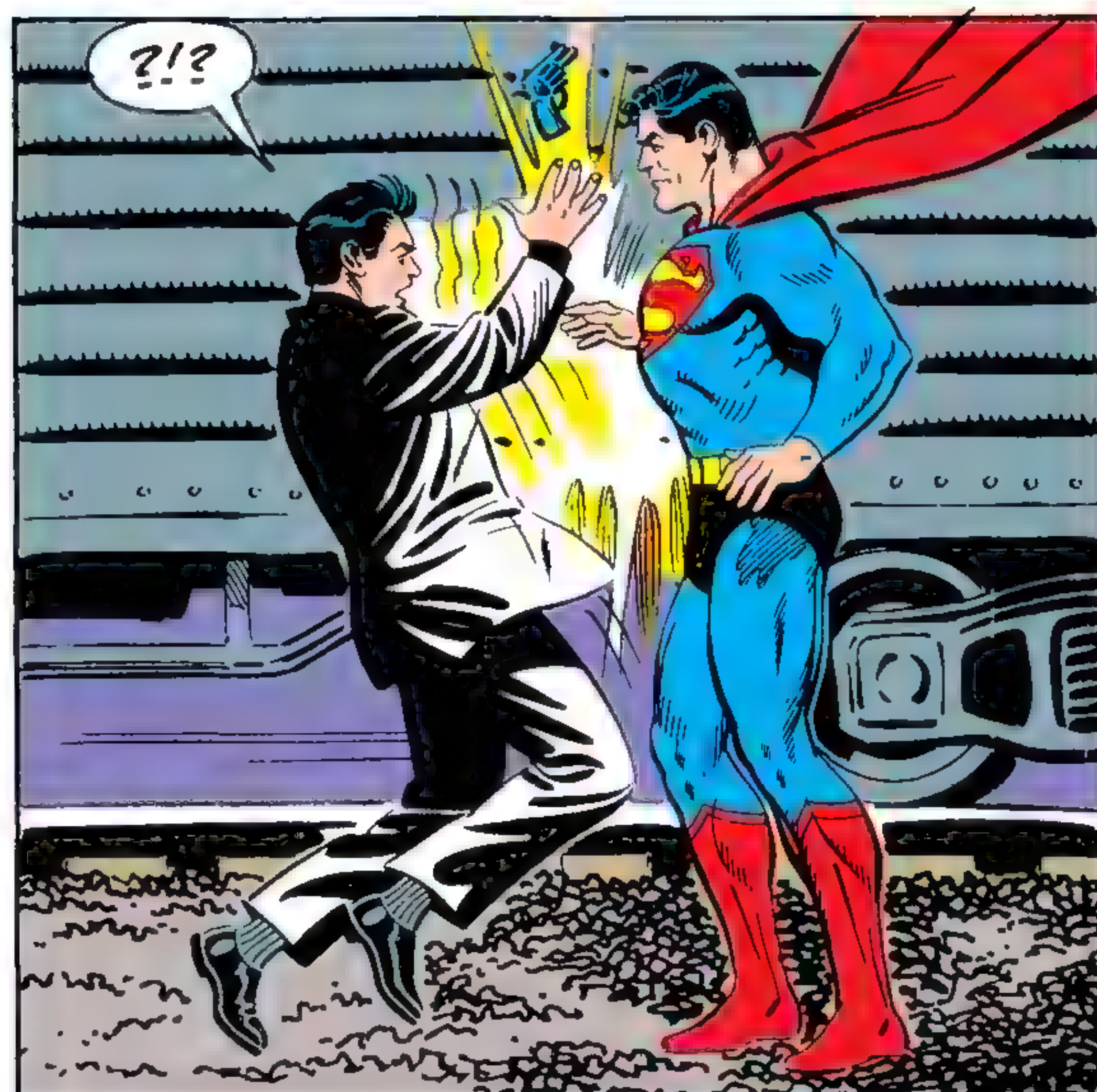
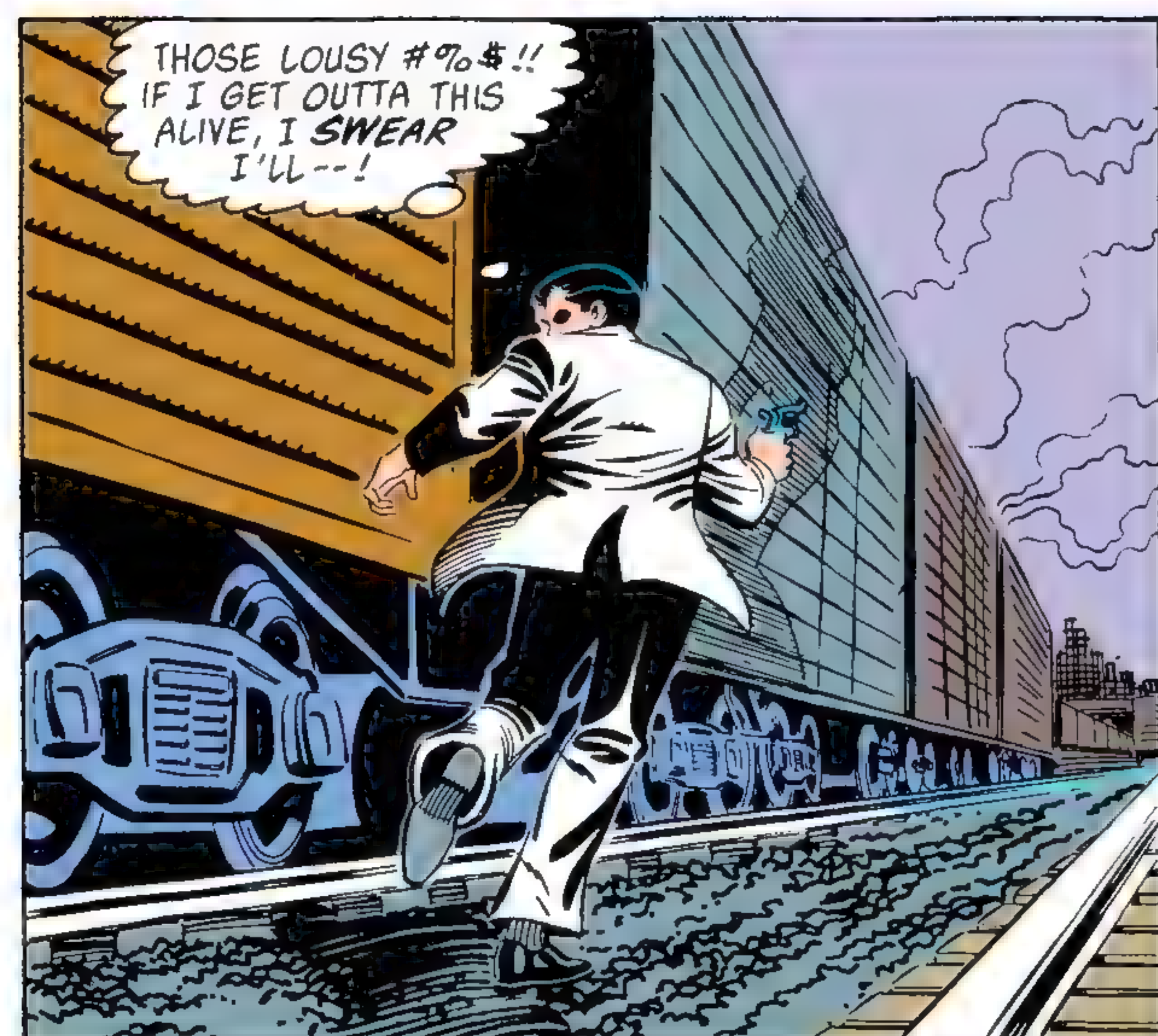
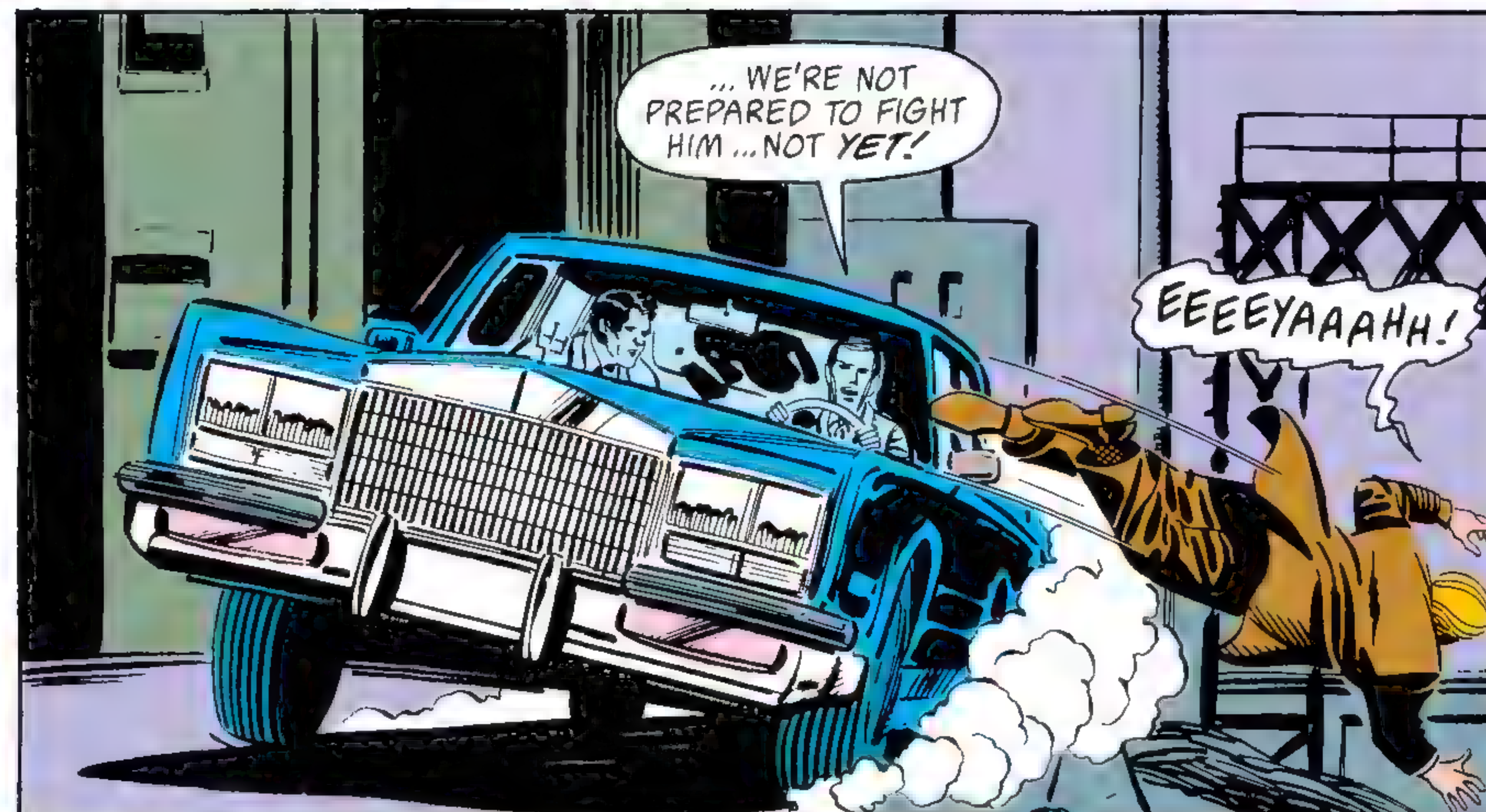
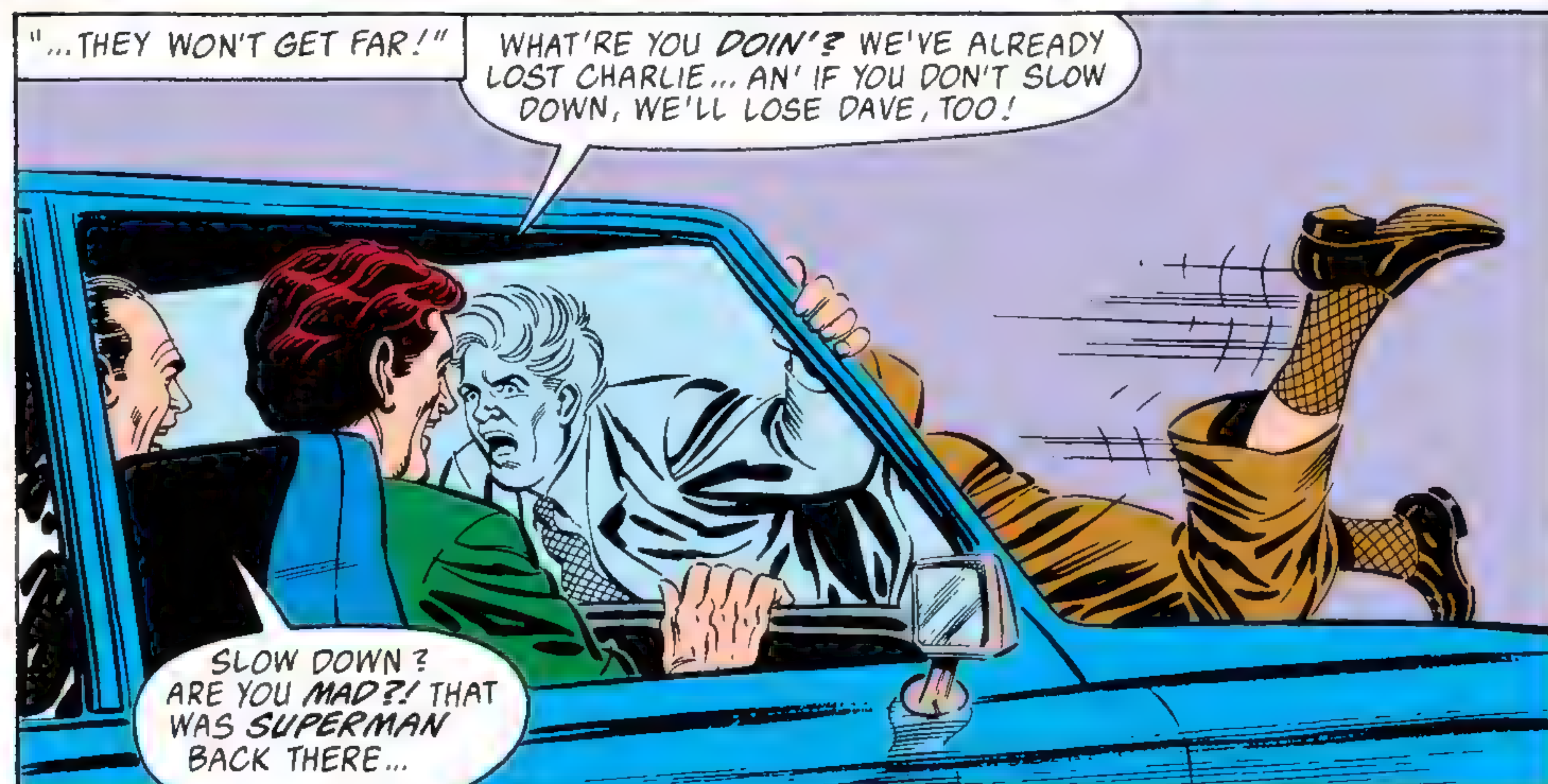
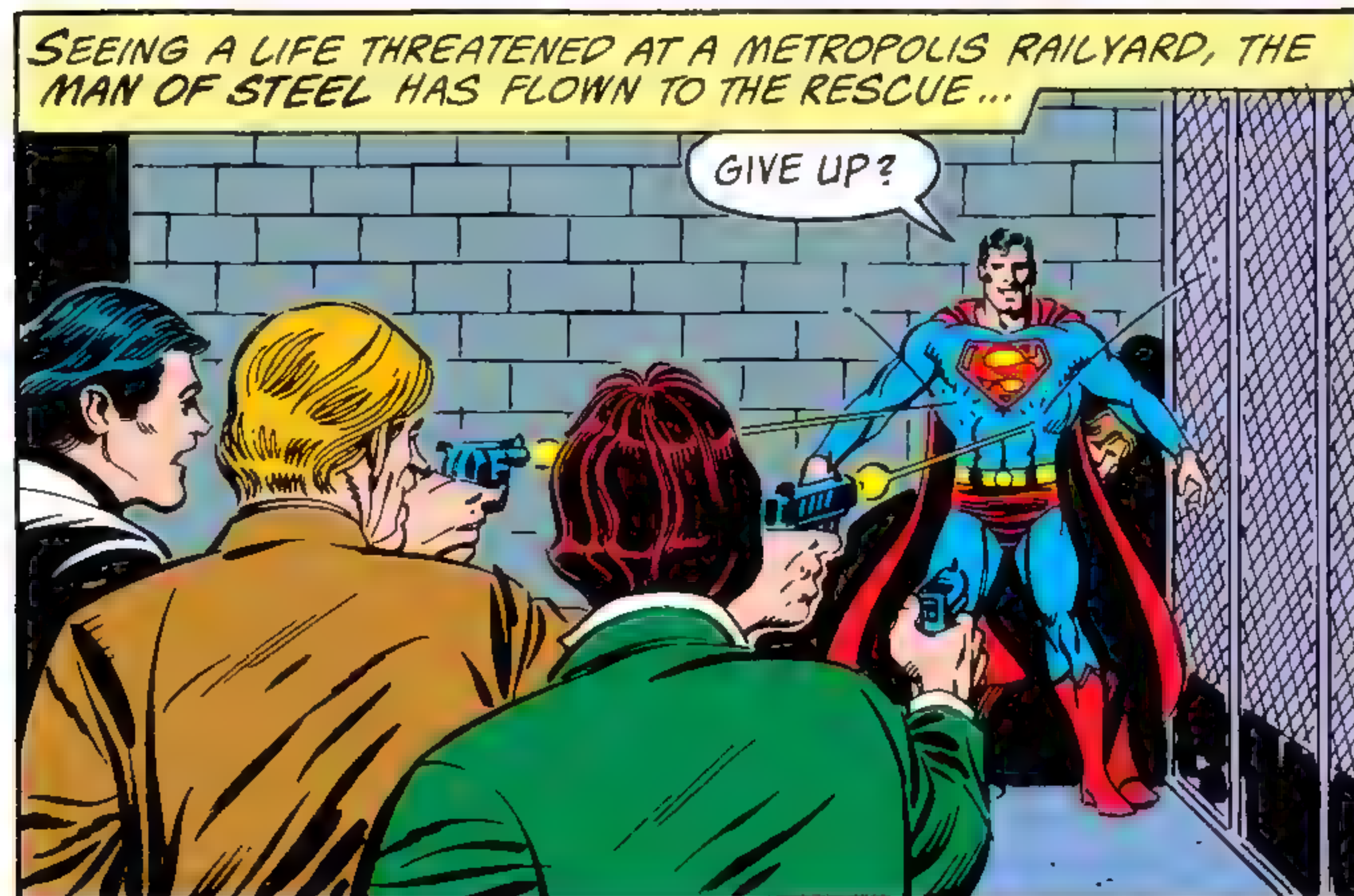
ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
JOHN BEATTY - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZILKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



SUPERMAN "THEY CAN RUN, BUT THEY CAN'T HIDE!"

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

STERN - WRITER
SWAN - PENCILLER
J. BEATTY - INKER
OAKLEY - LETTERER
ZILKO - COLORIST
CARLIN - EDITOR

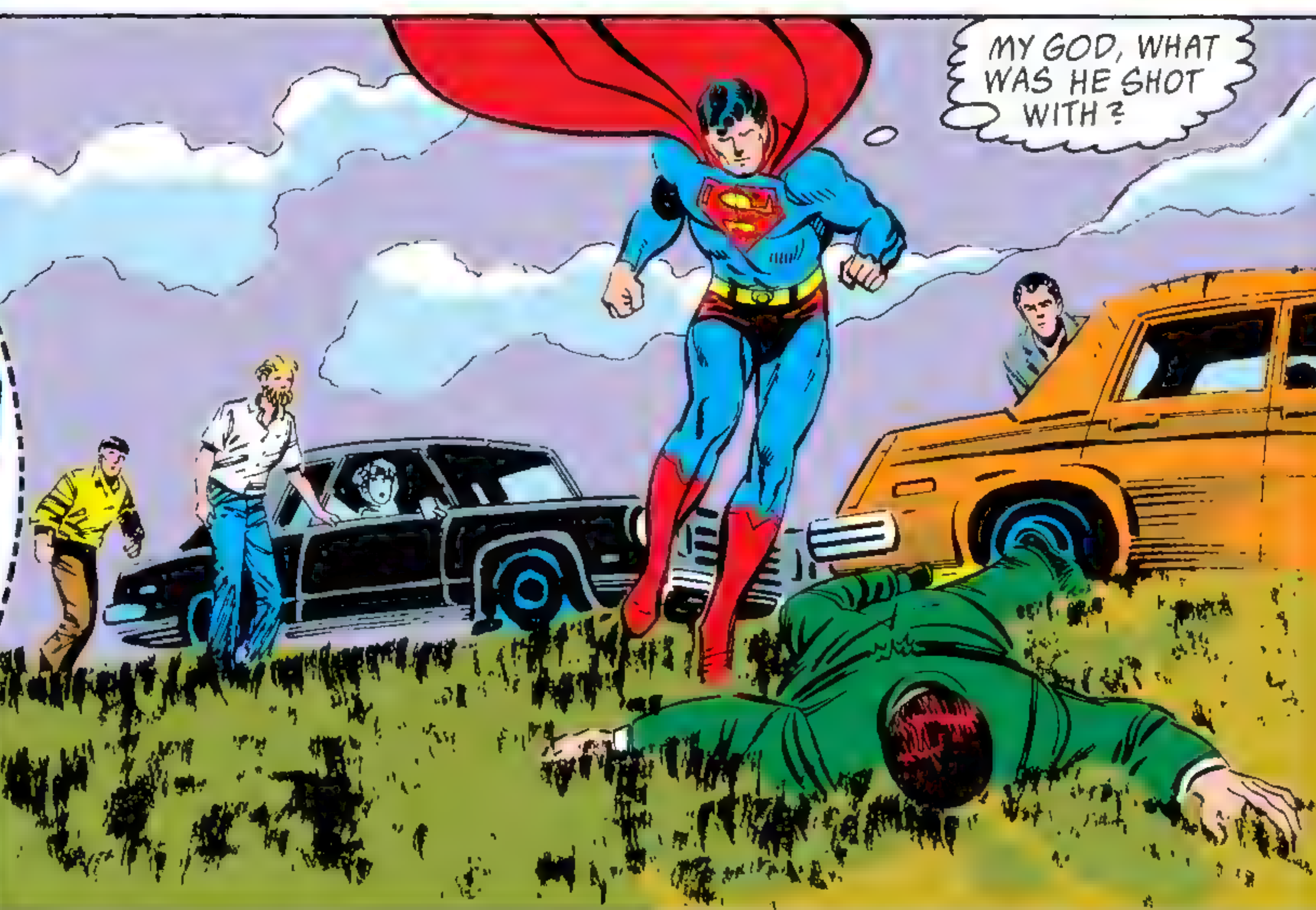
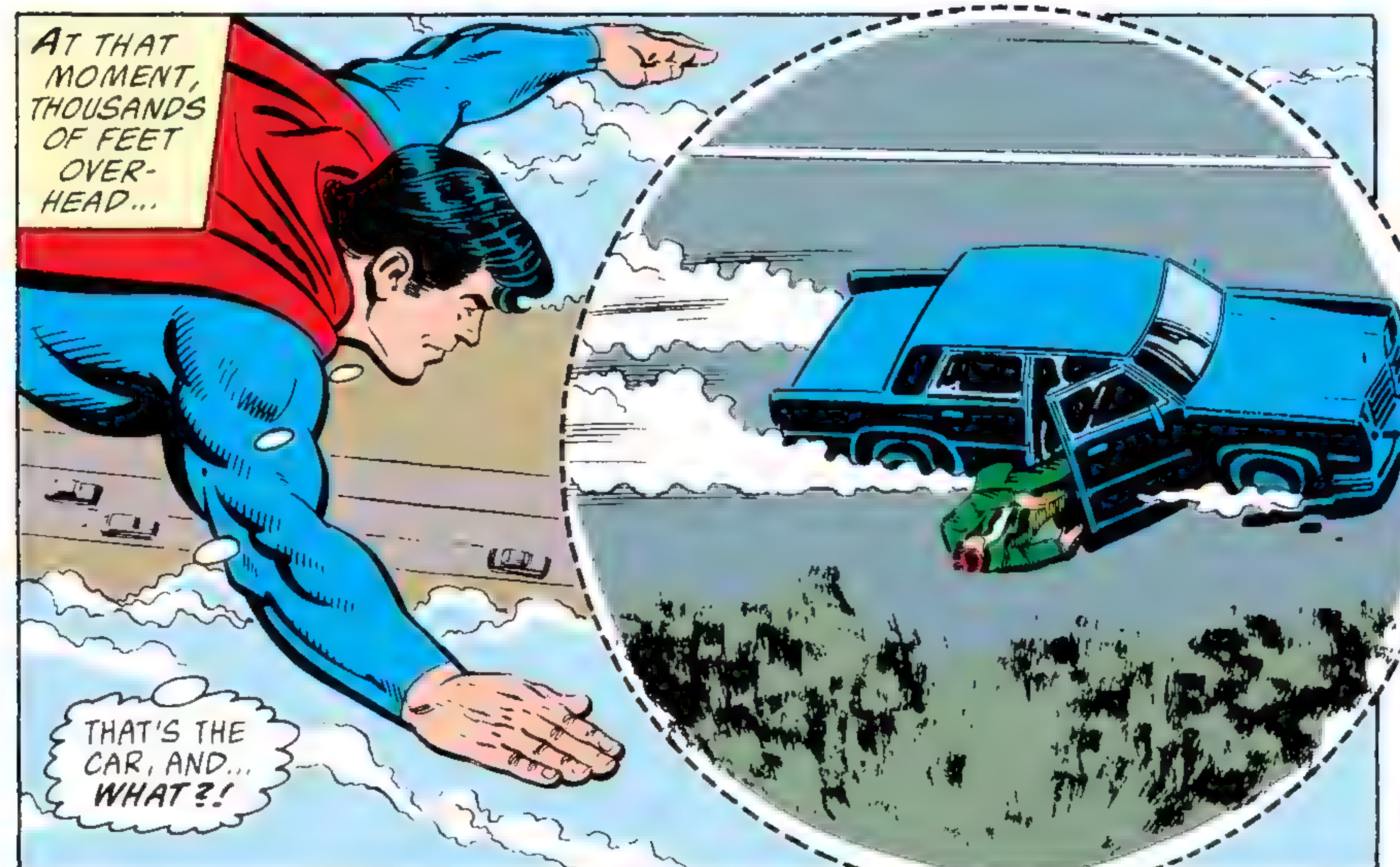
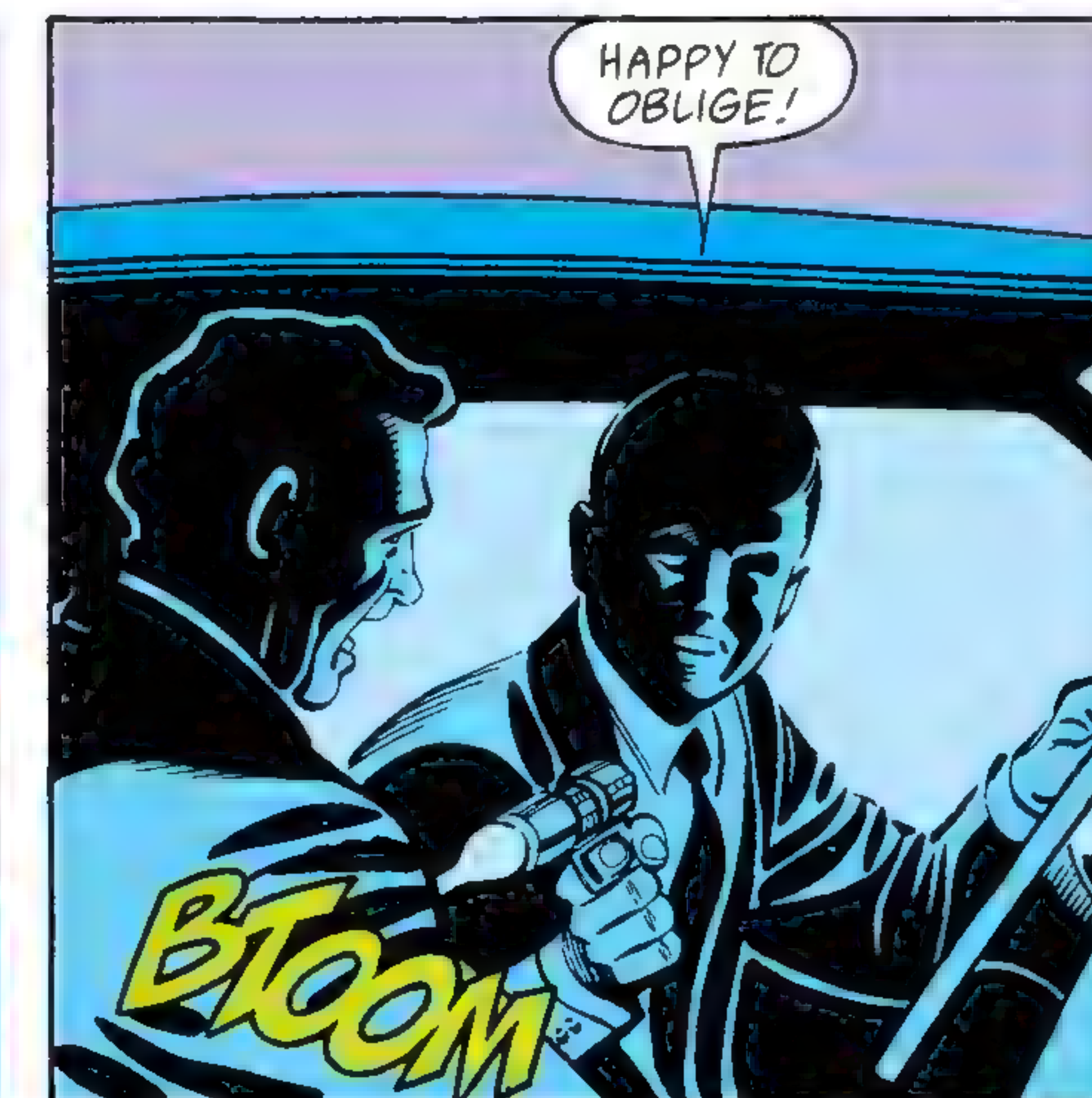
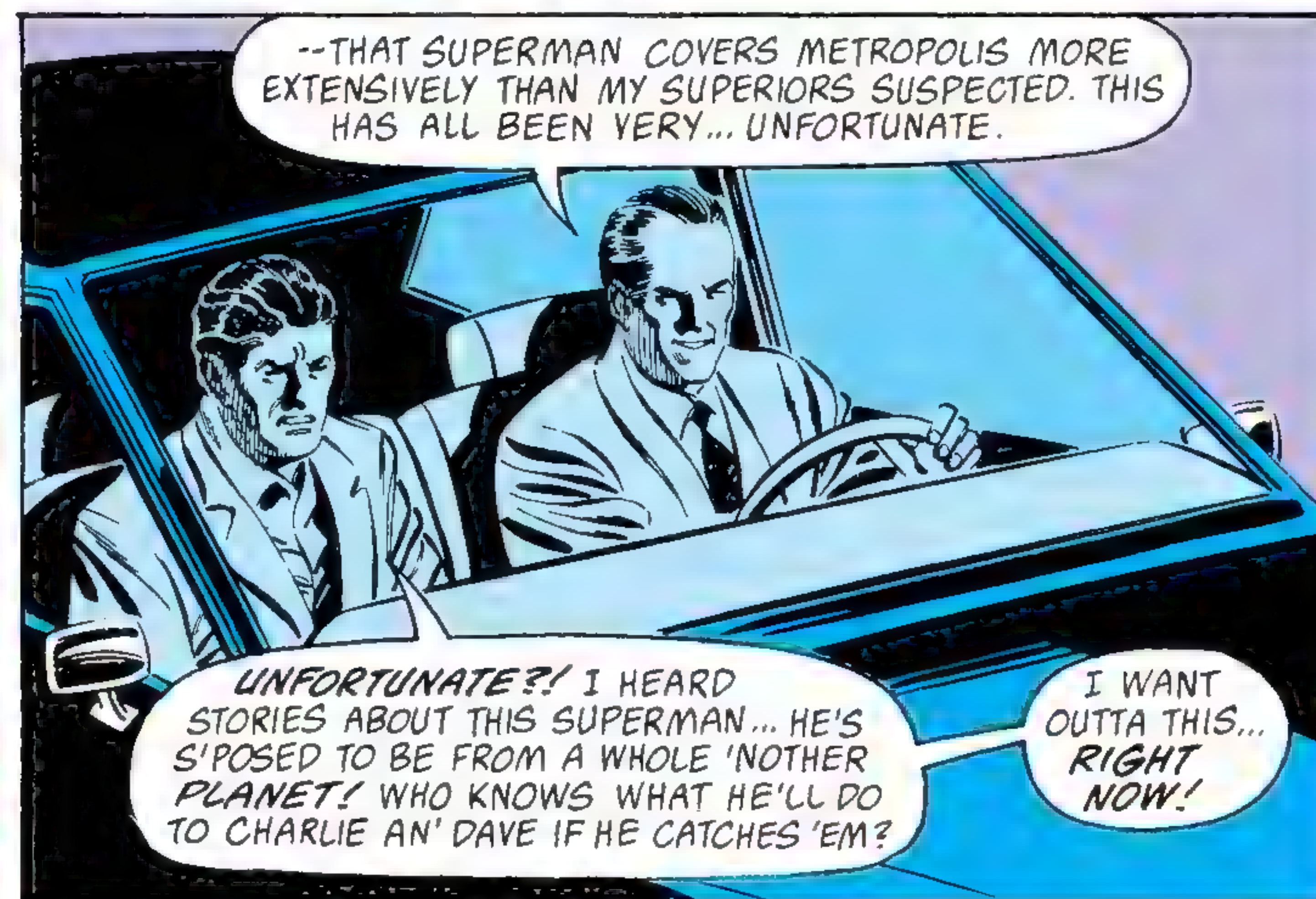
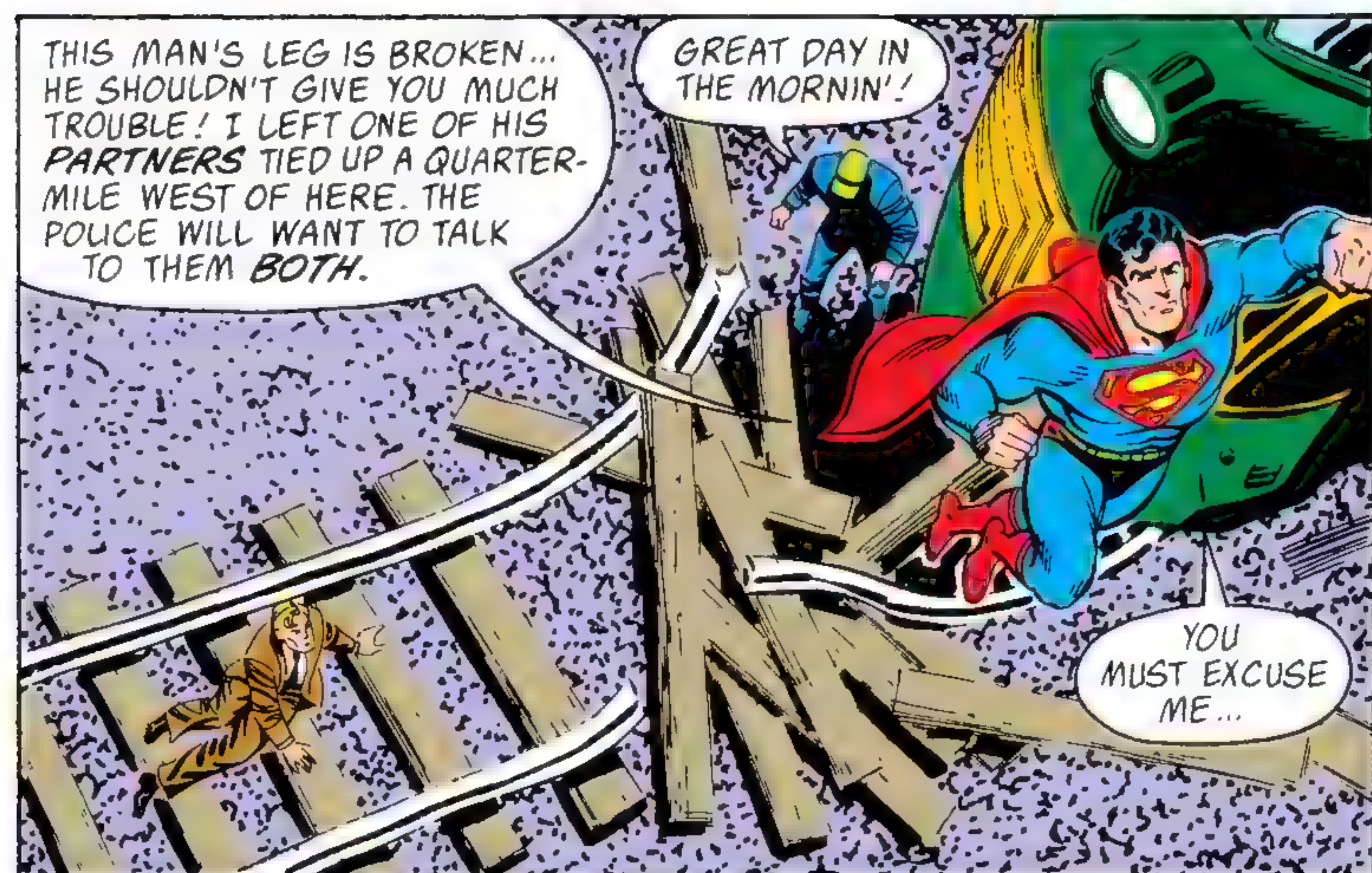
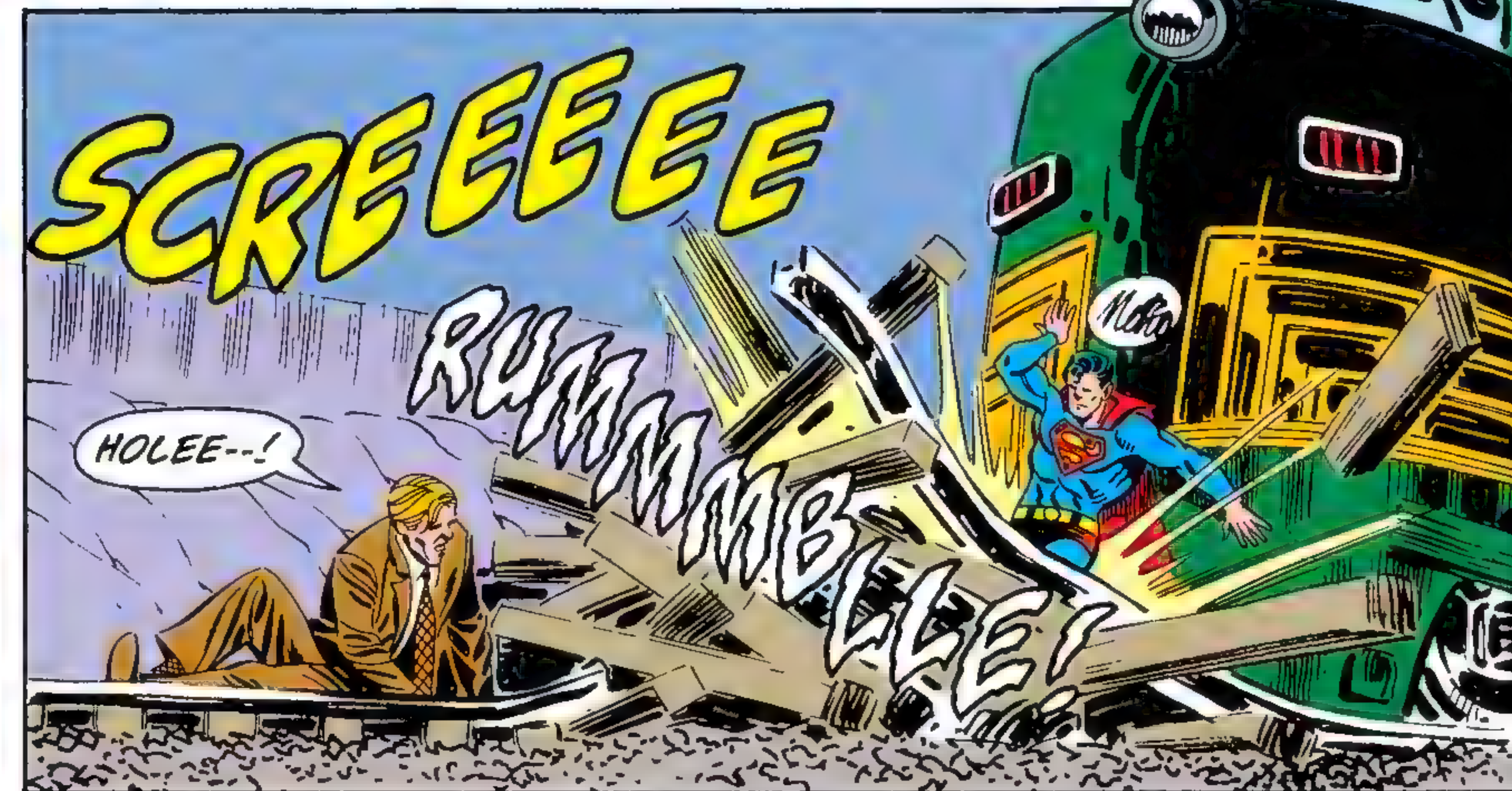
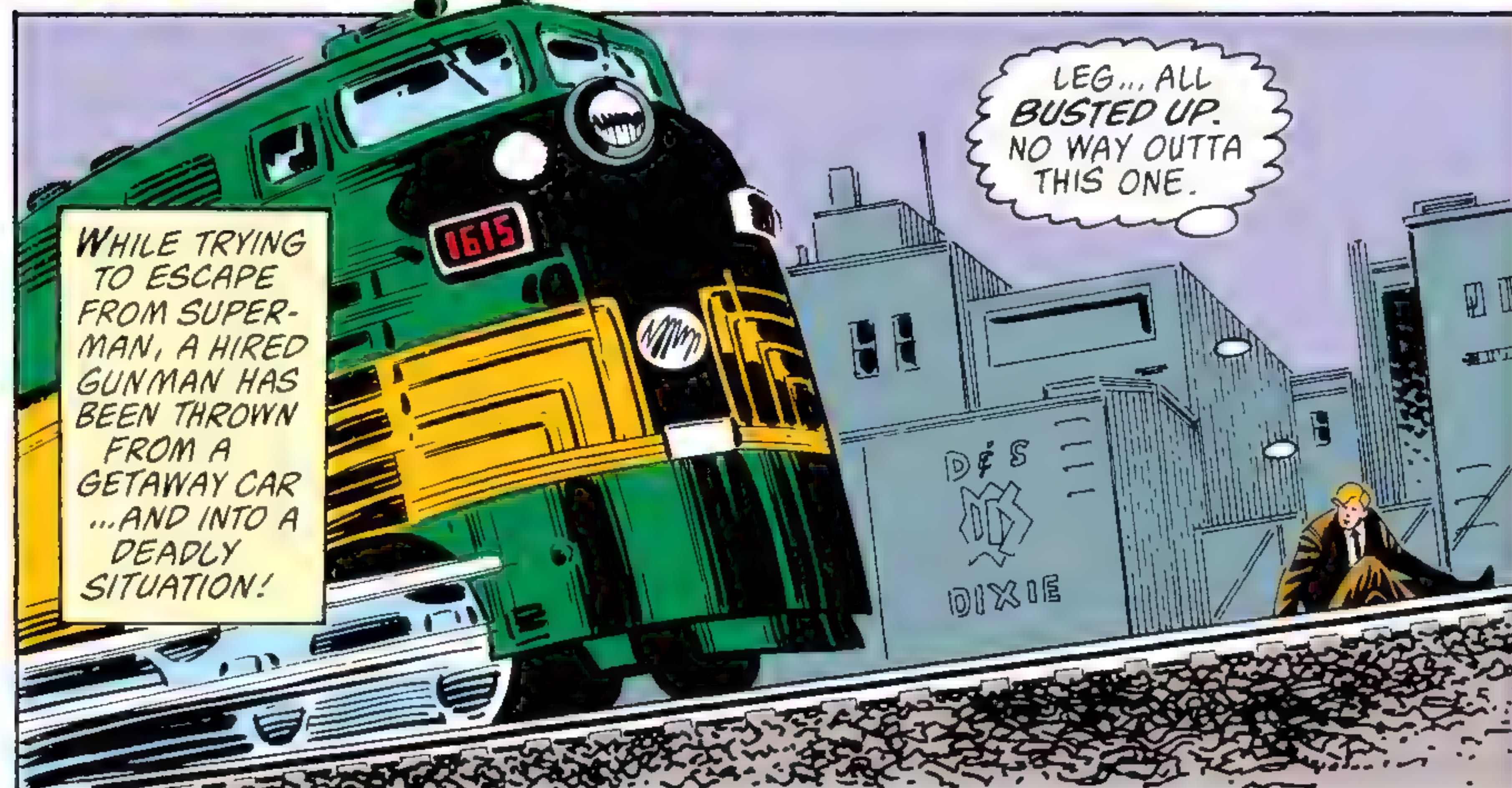


SUPERMAN[®]

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JOE SHUSTER

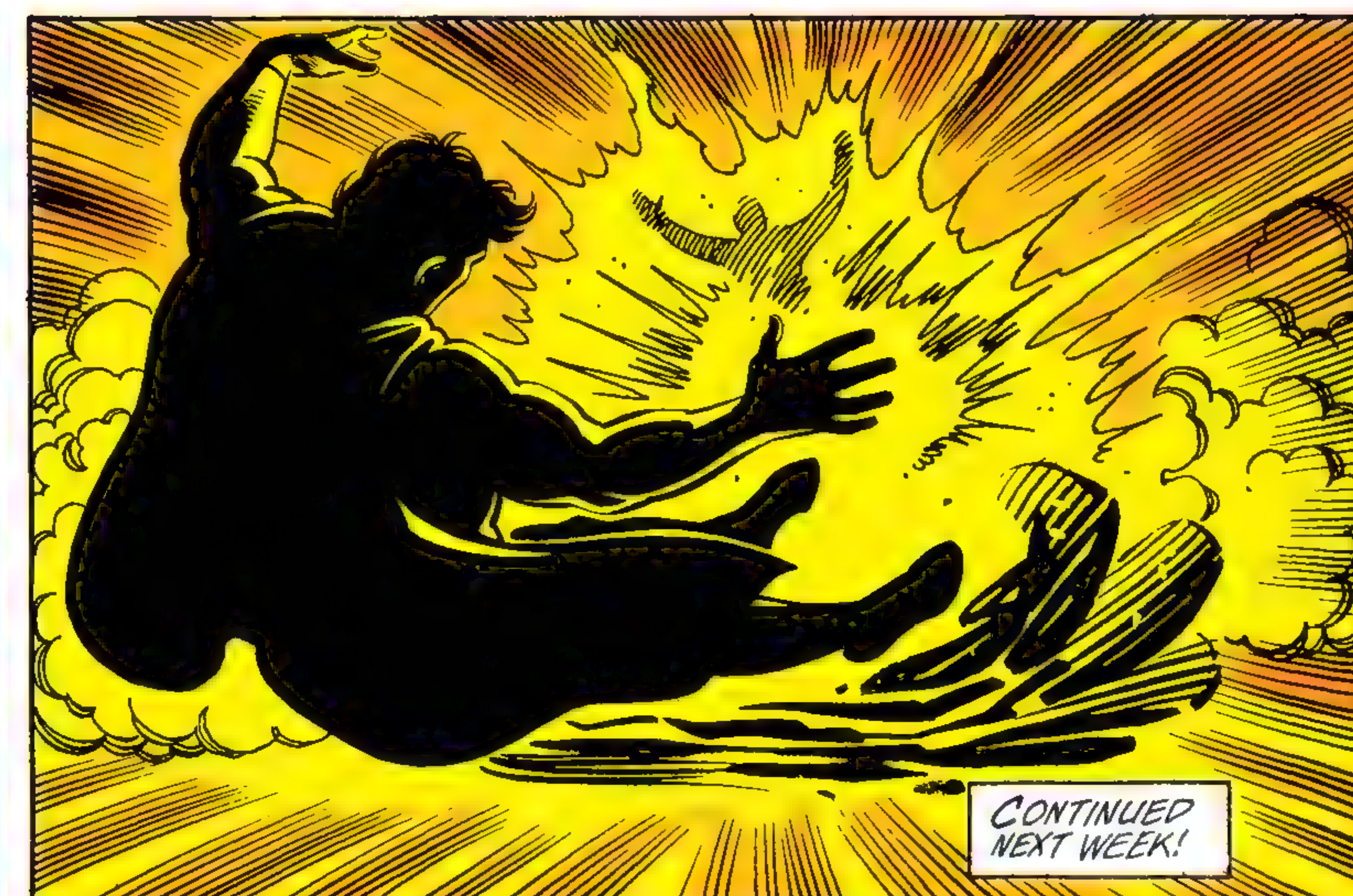
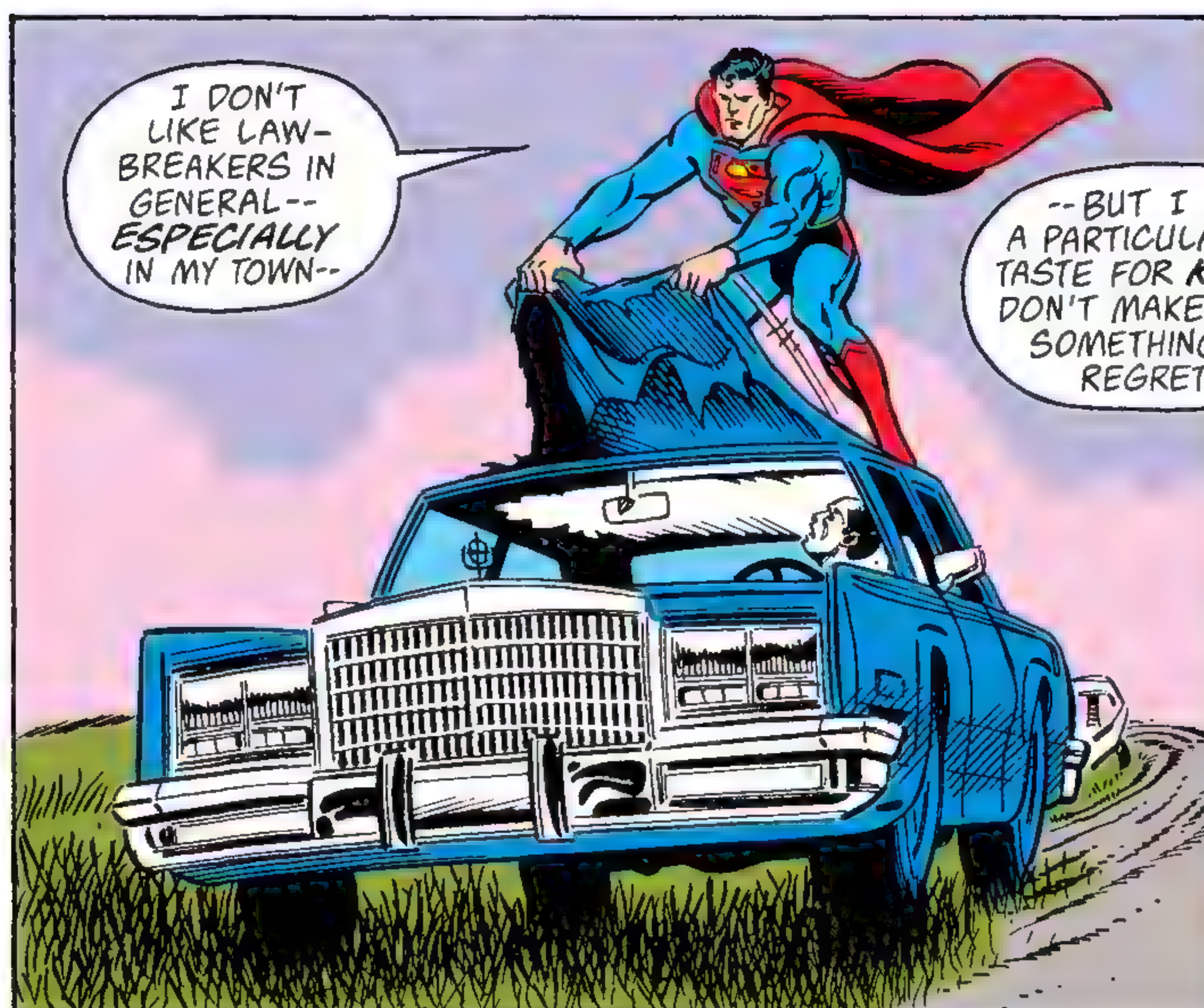
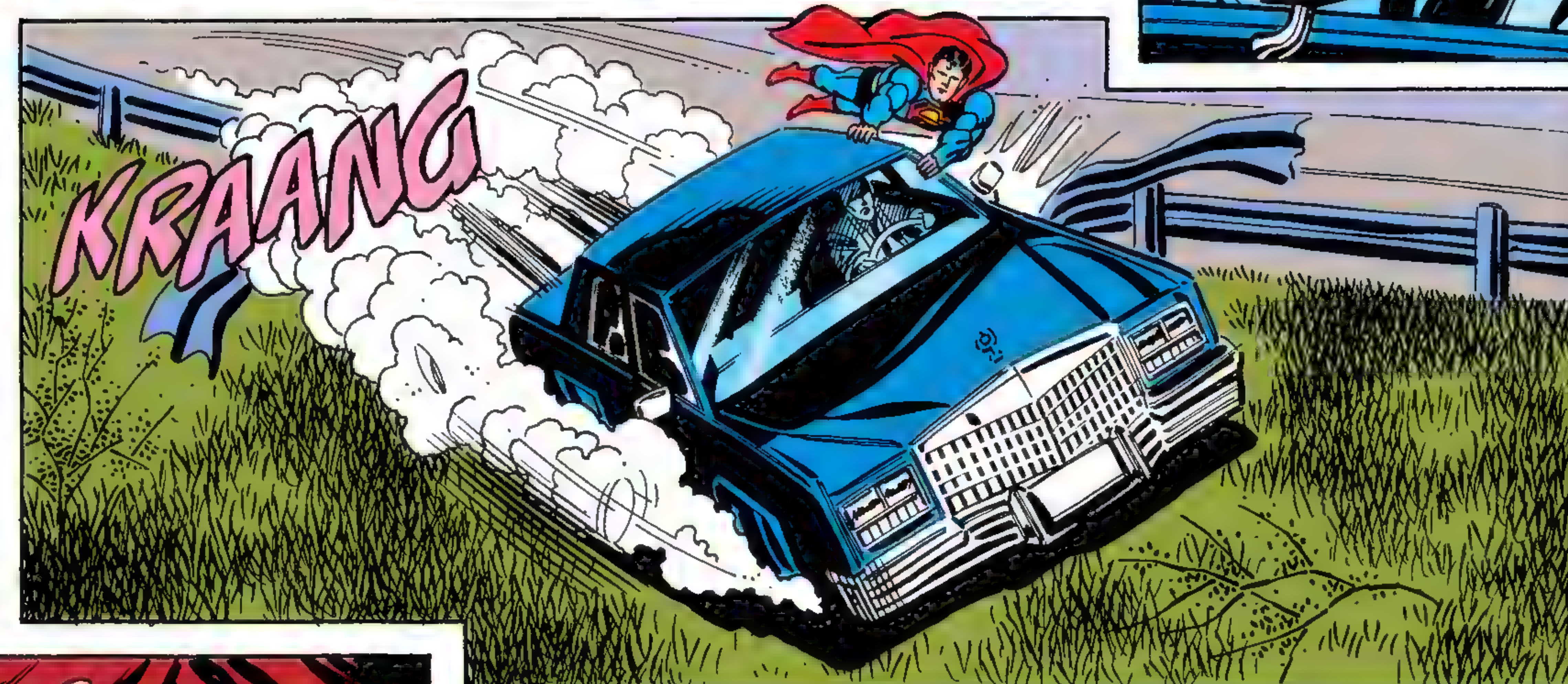
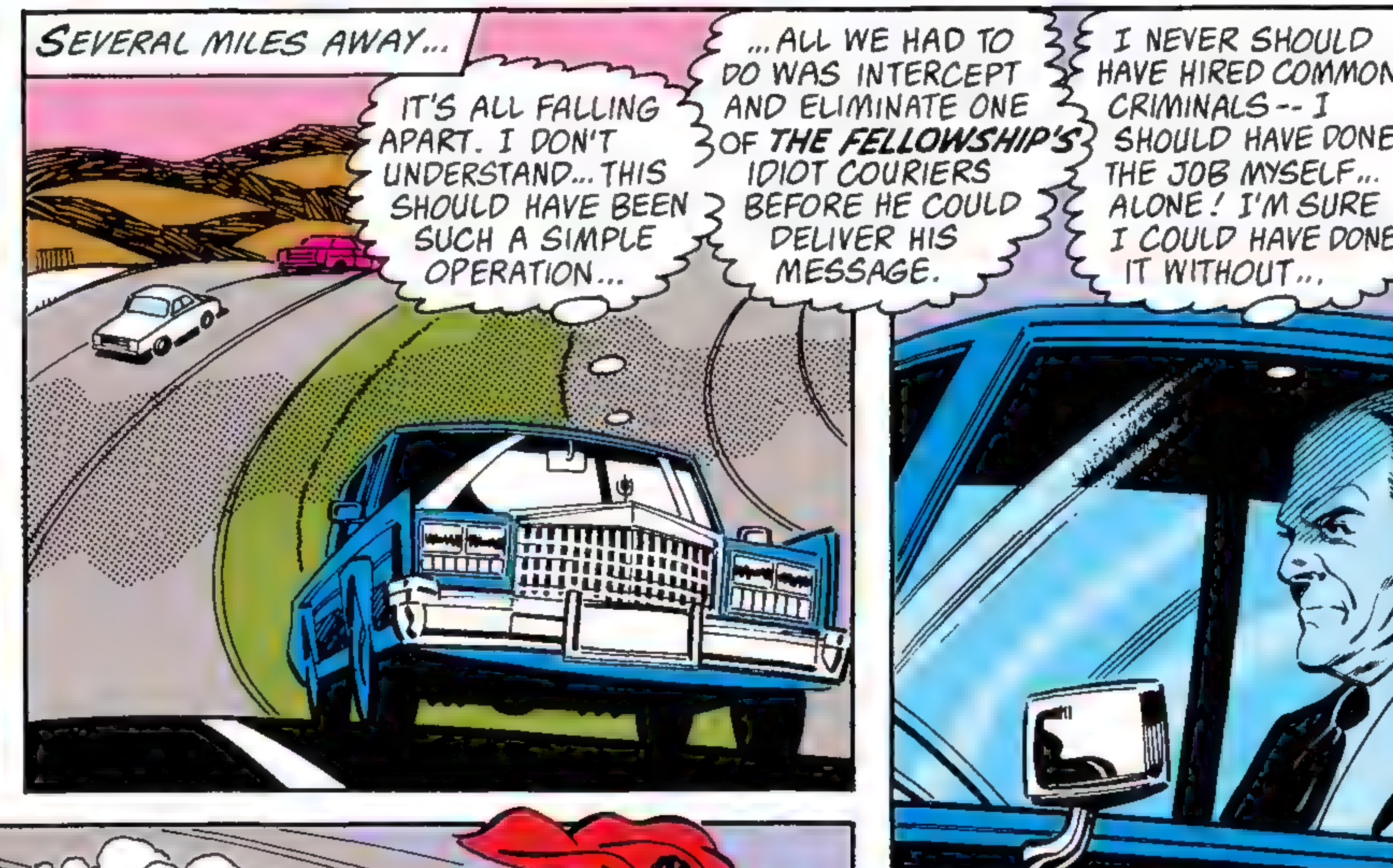
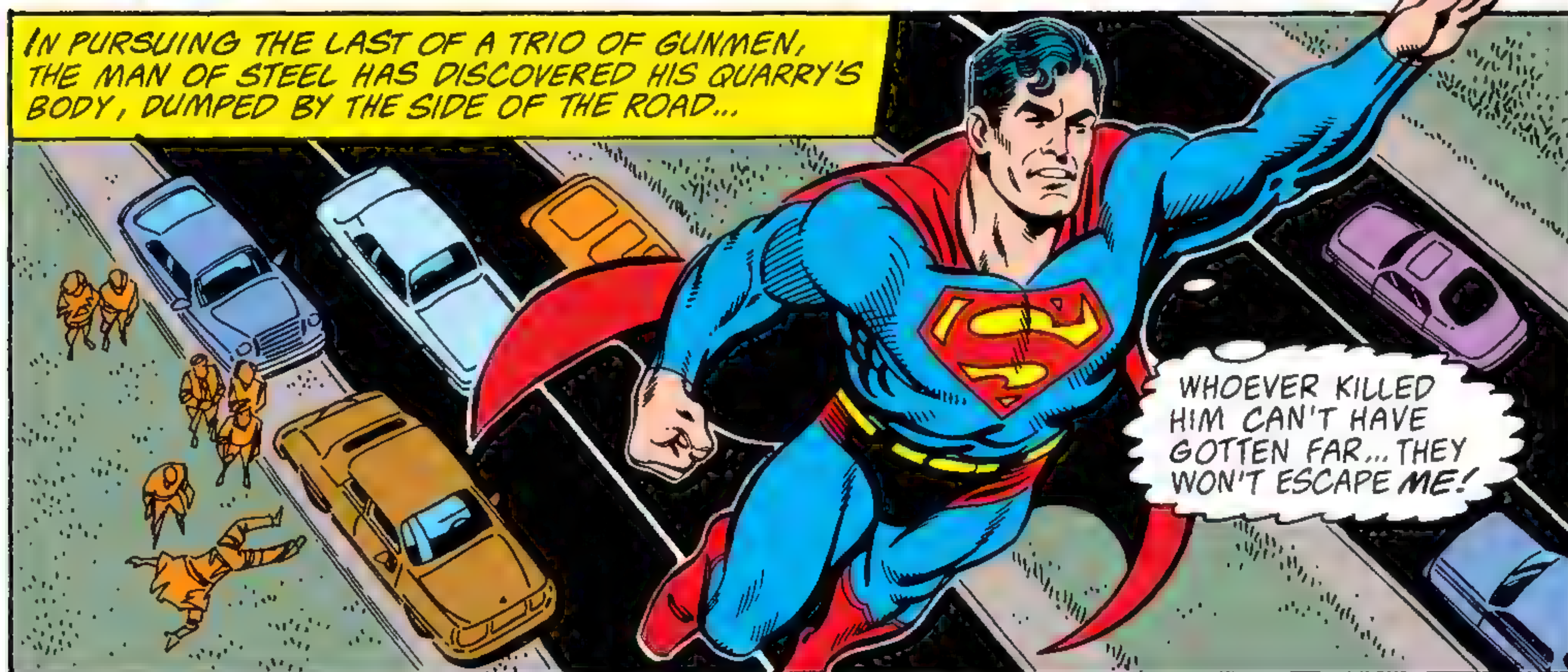
"MORE POWERFUL THAN A LOCOMOTIVE!"

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
JOHN BEATTY - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
PETRA SCOTSESE - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



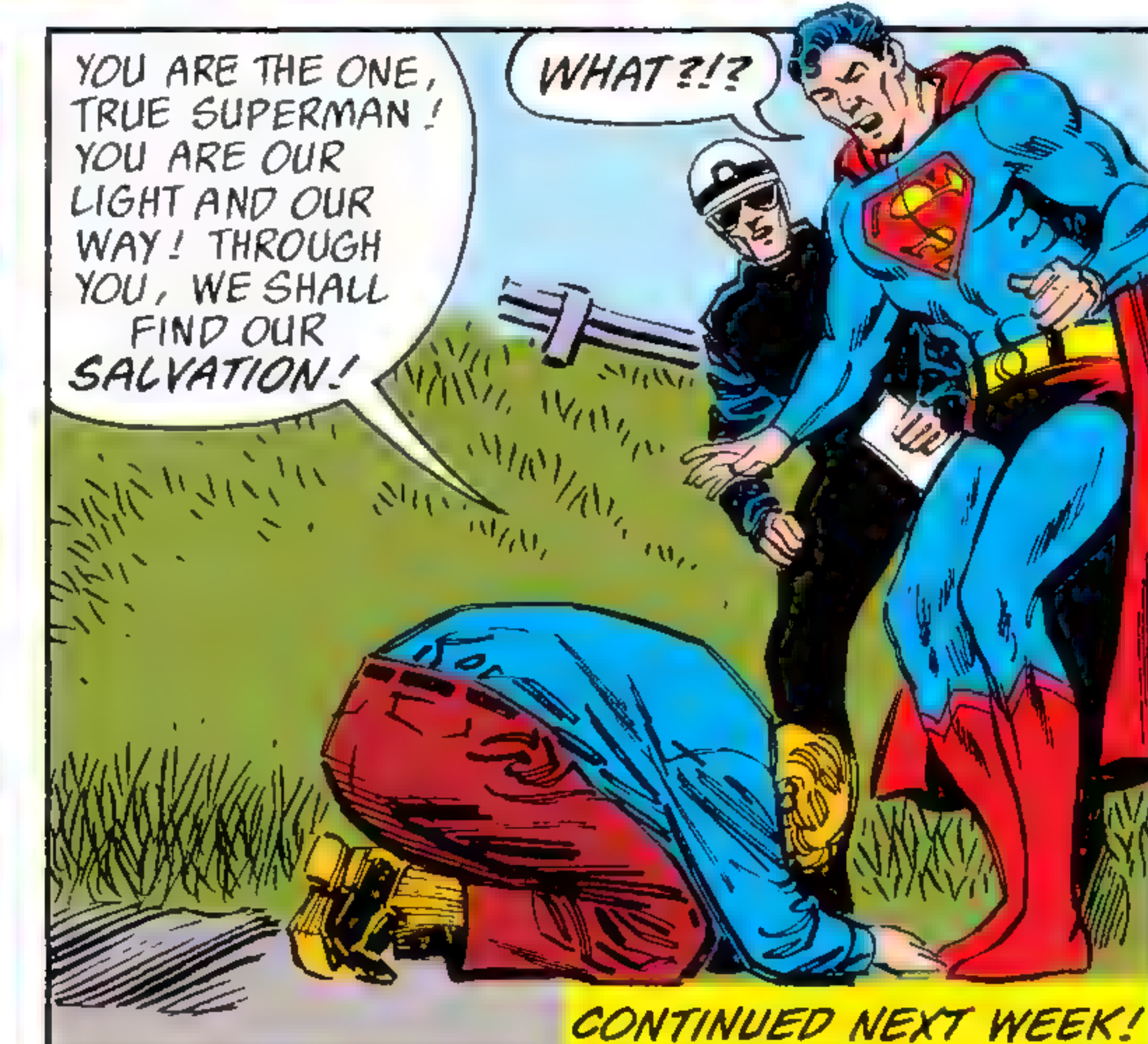
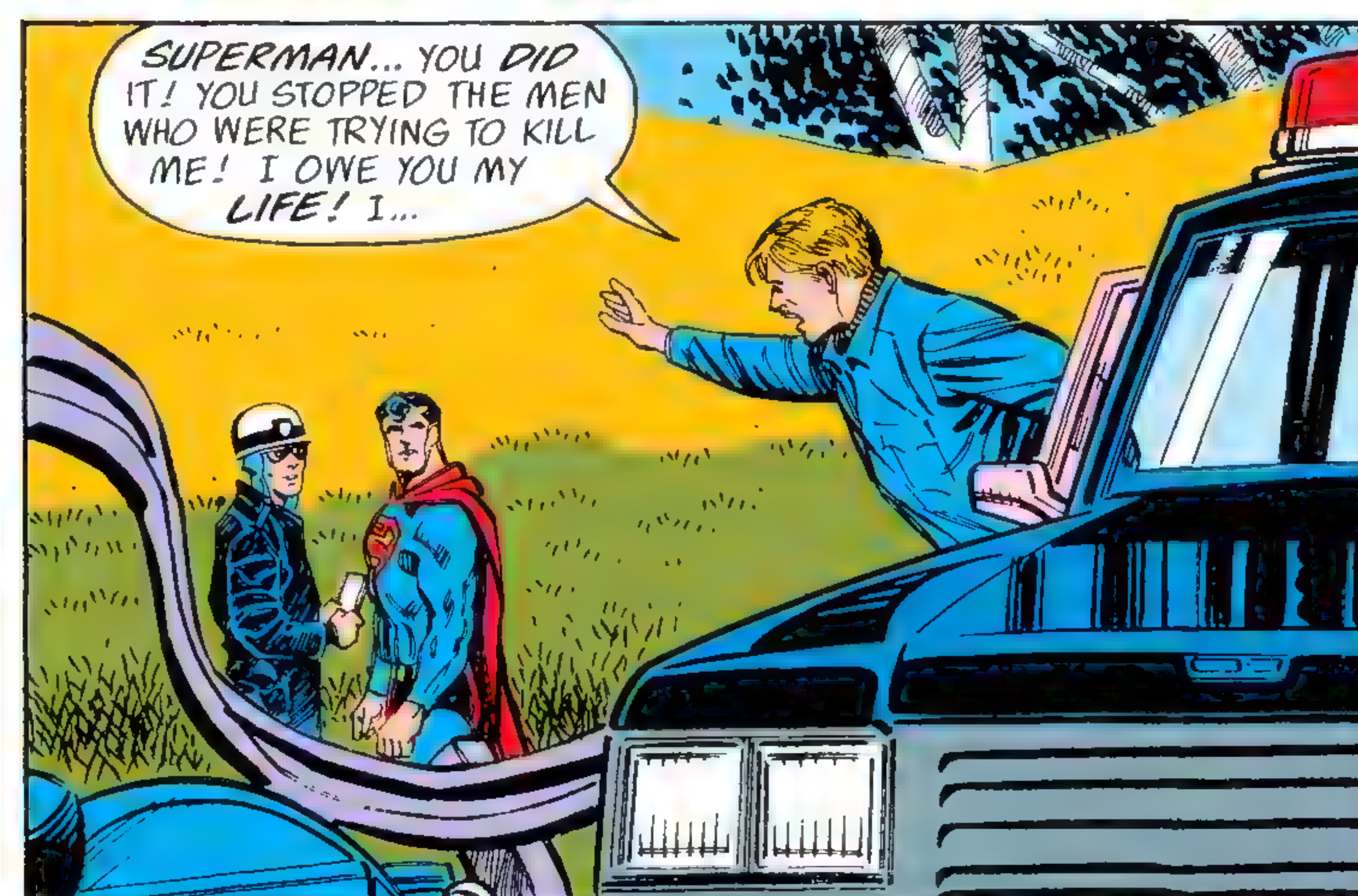
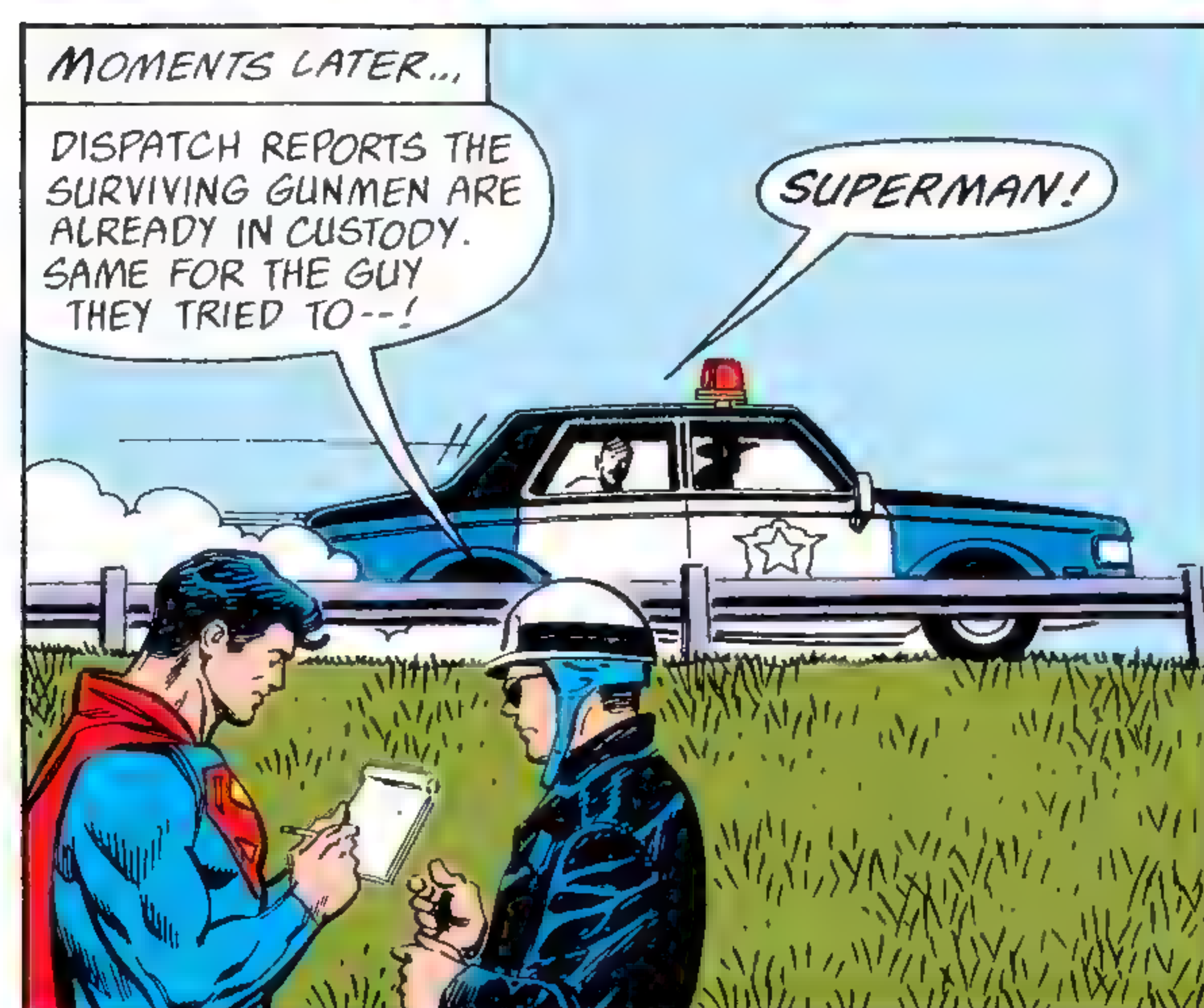
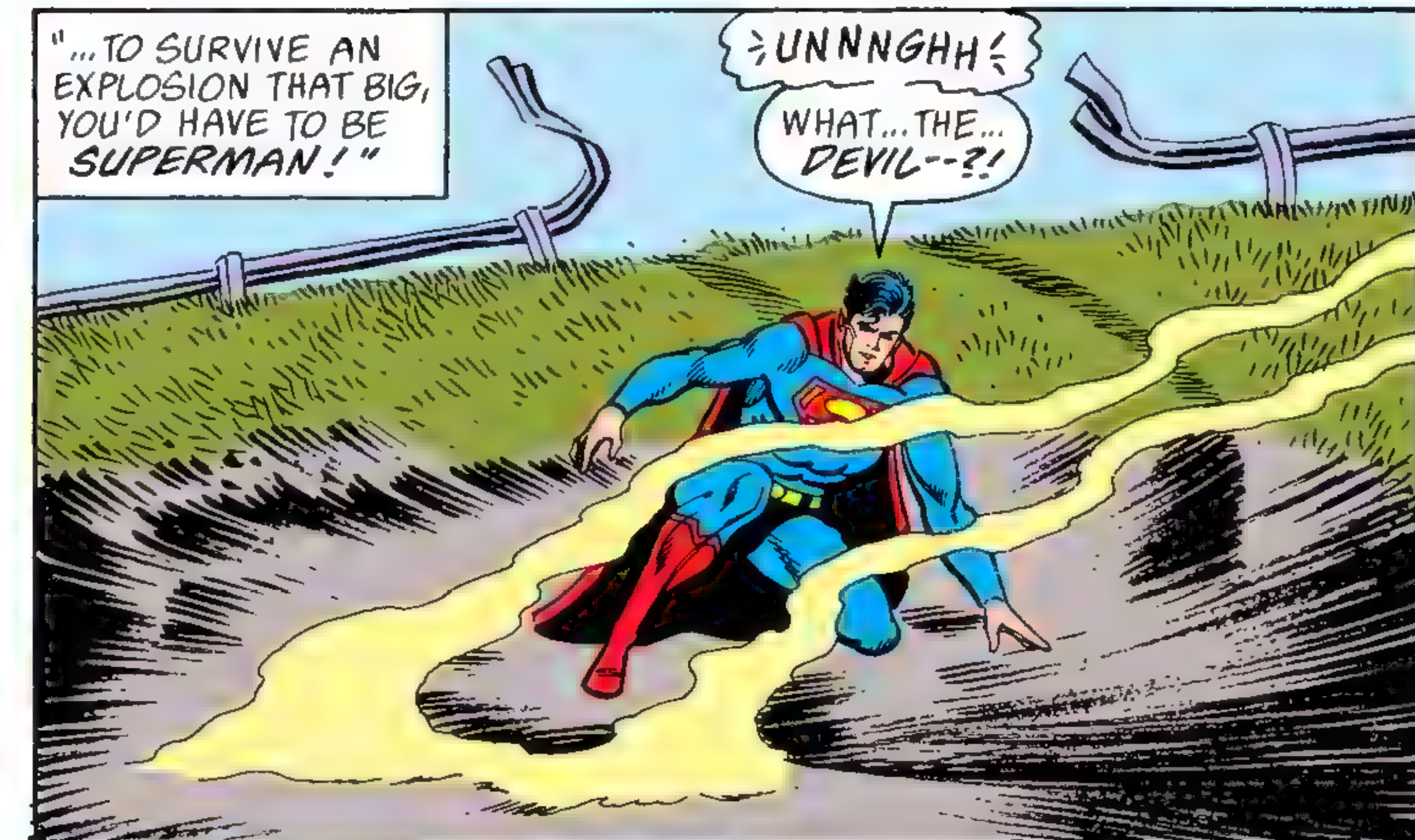
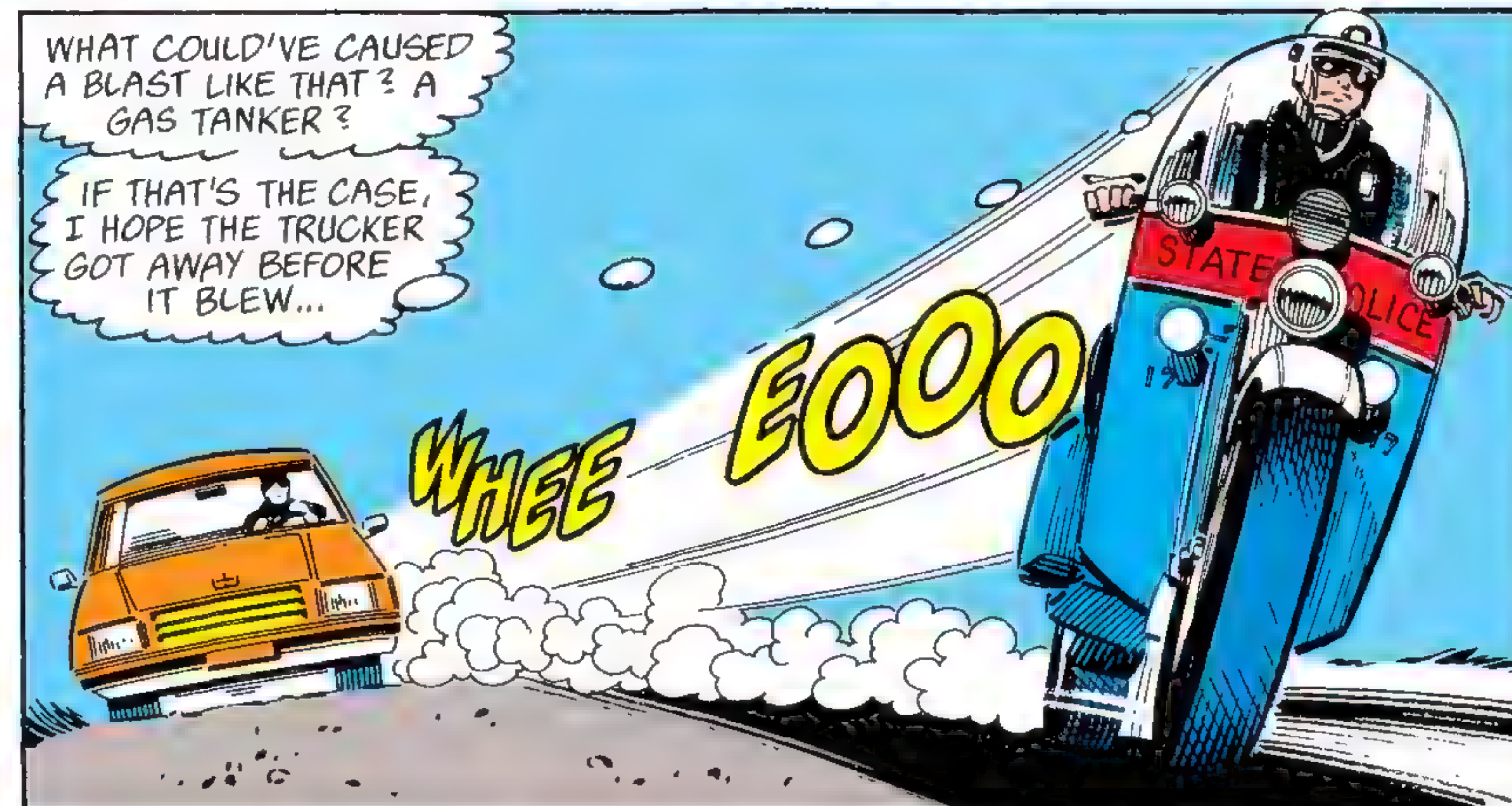
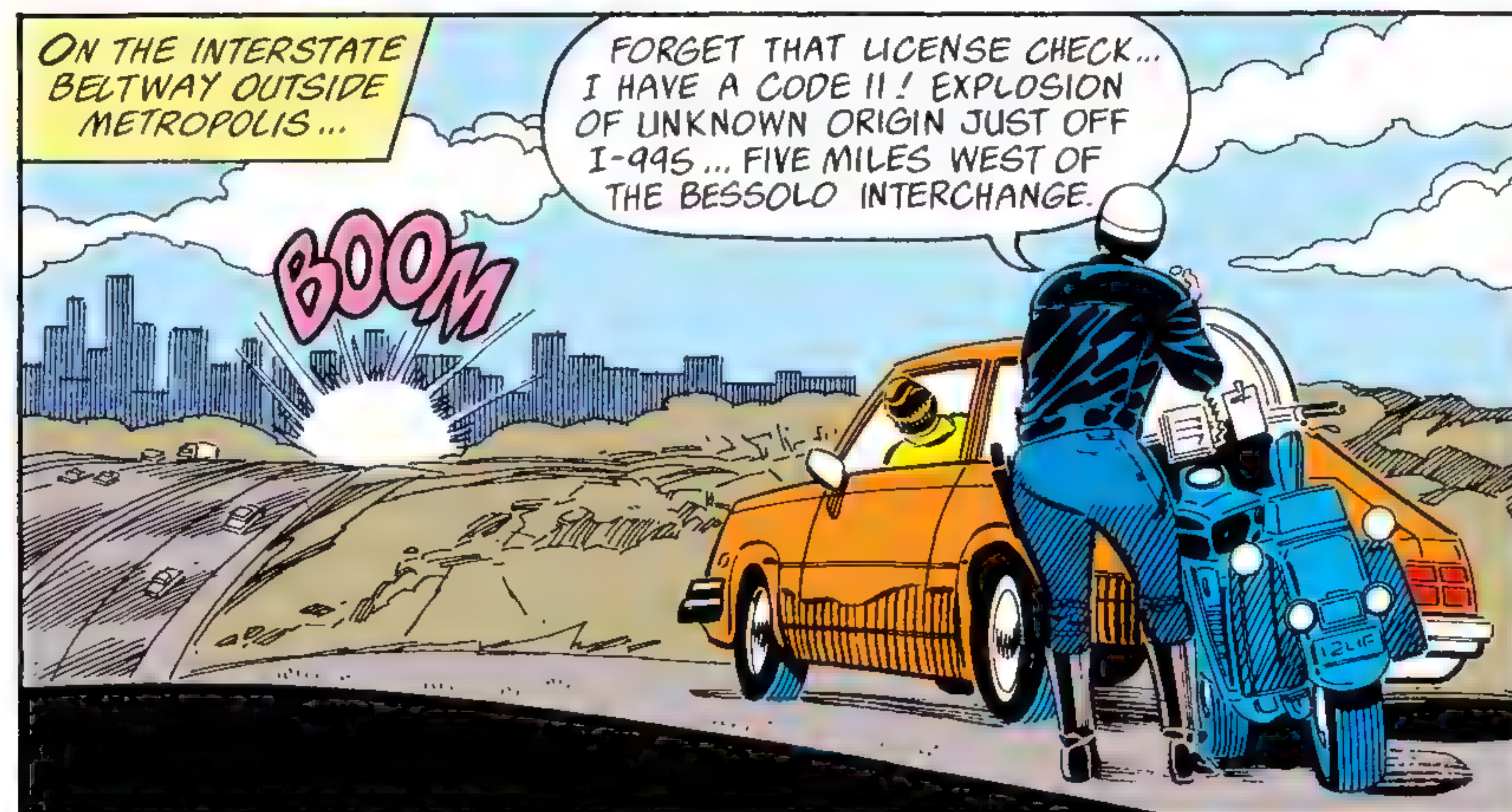
"FINAL ESCAPE?"

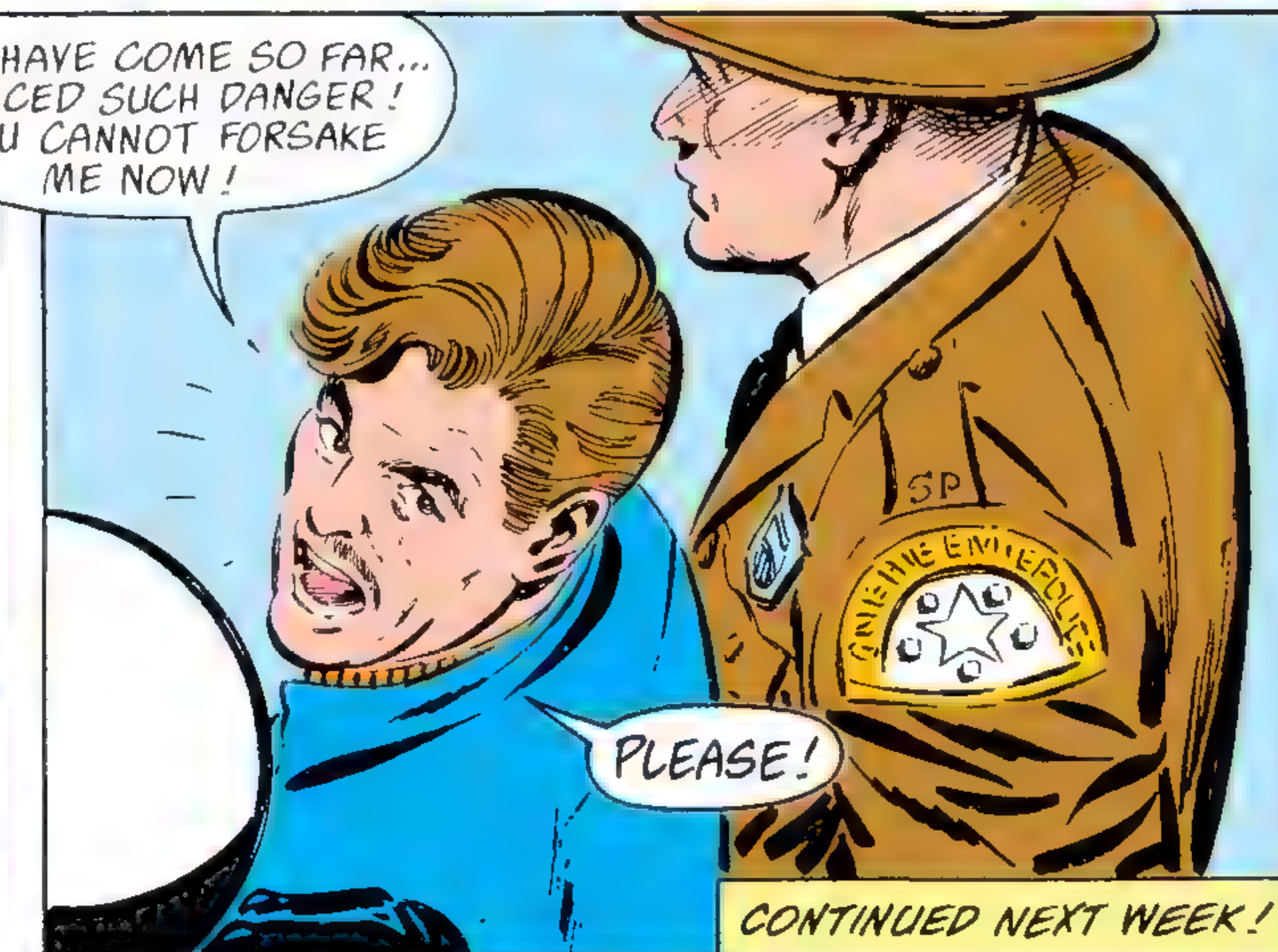
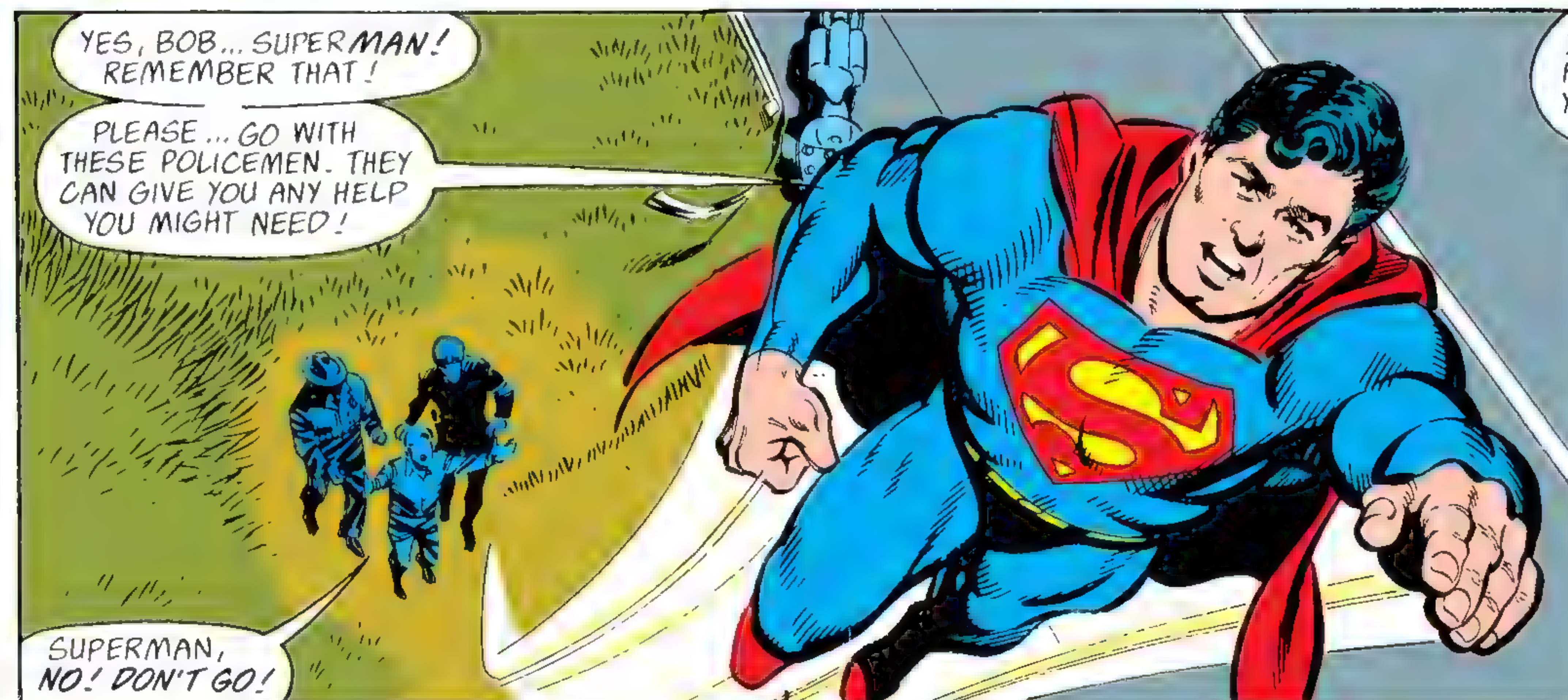
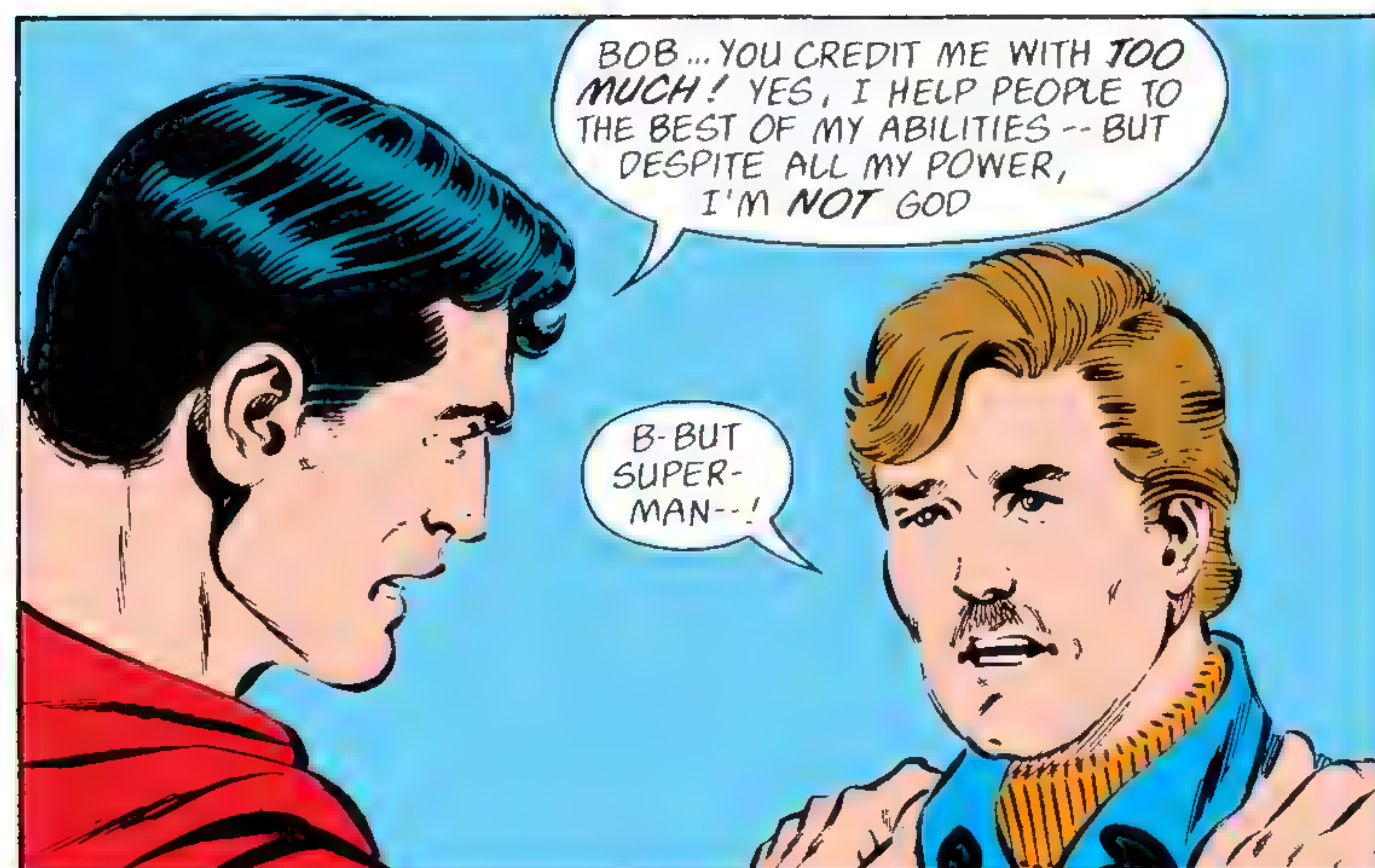
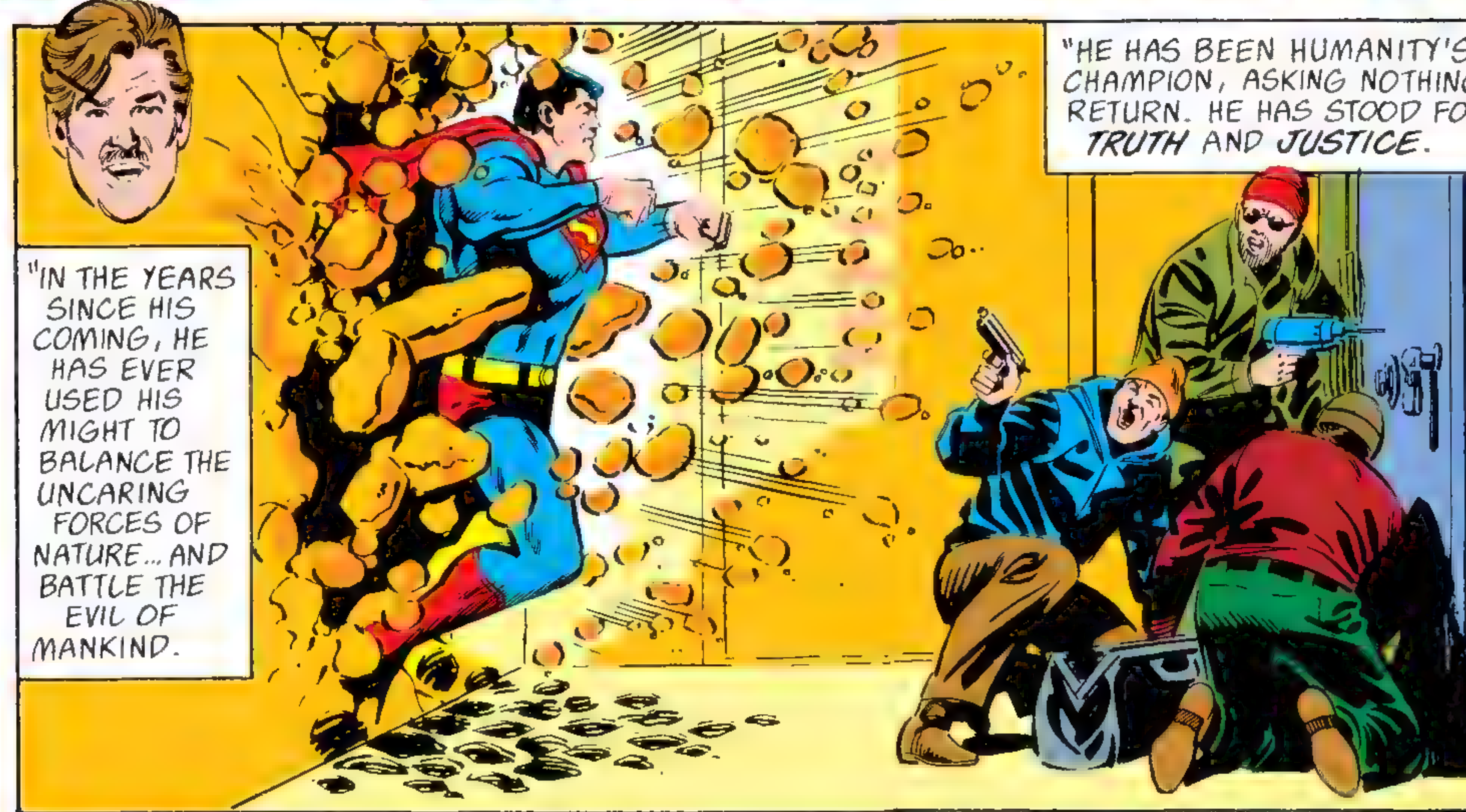
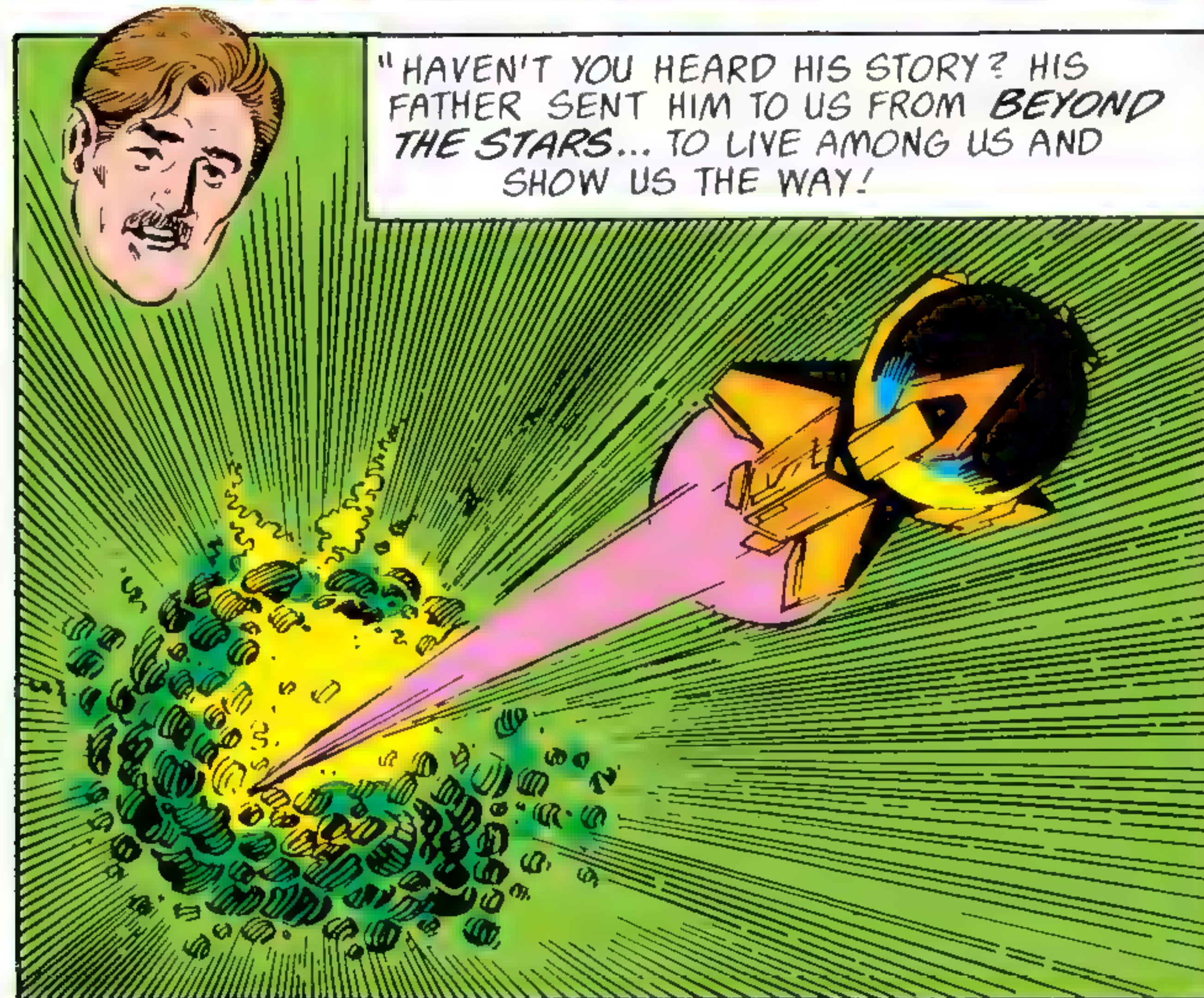
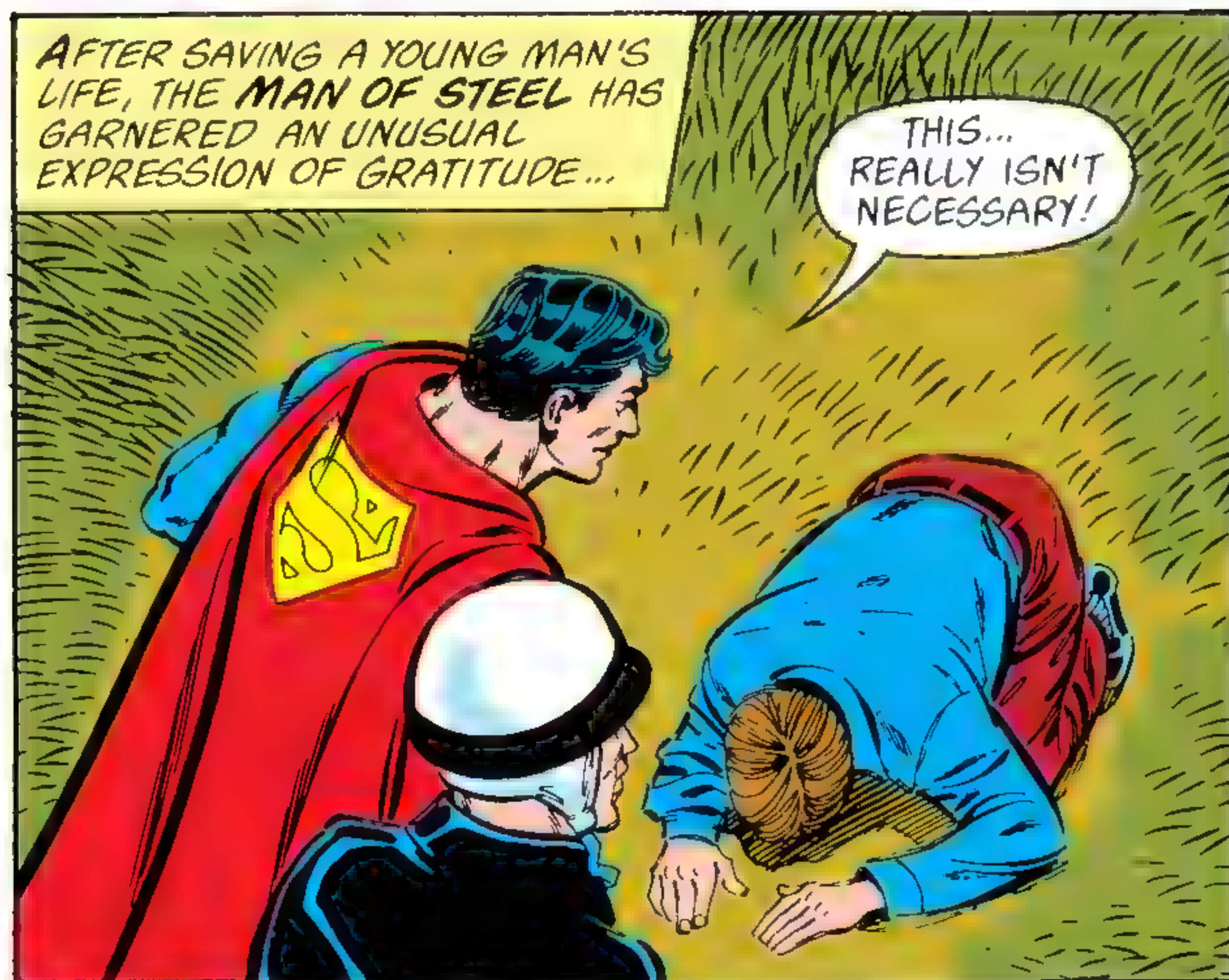
ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
JOHN BEATTY - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZILKO - COLORER
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



"AFTER MATH"

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
JOHN BEATTY - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR

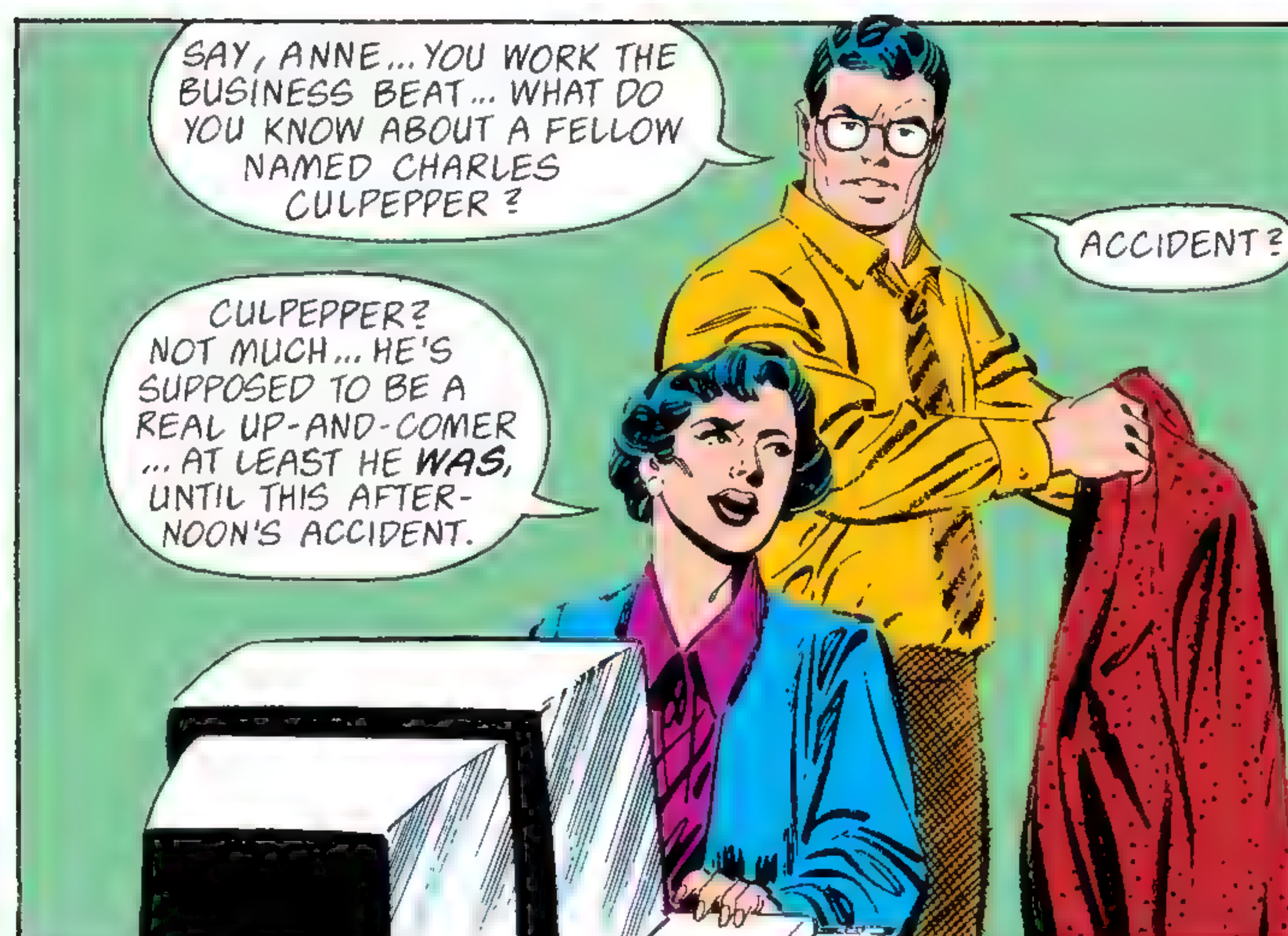
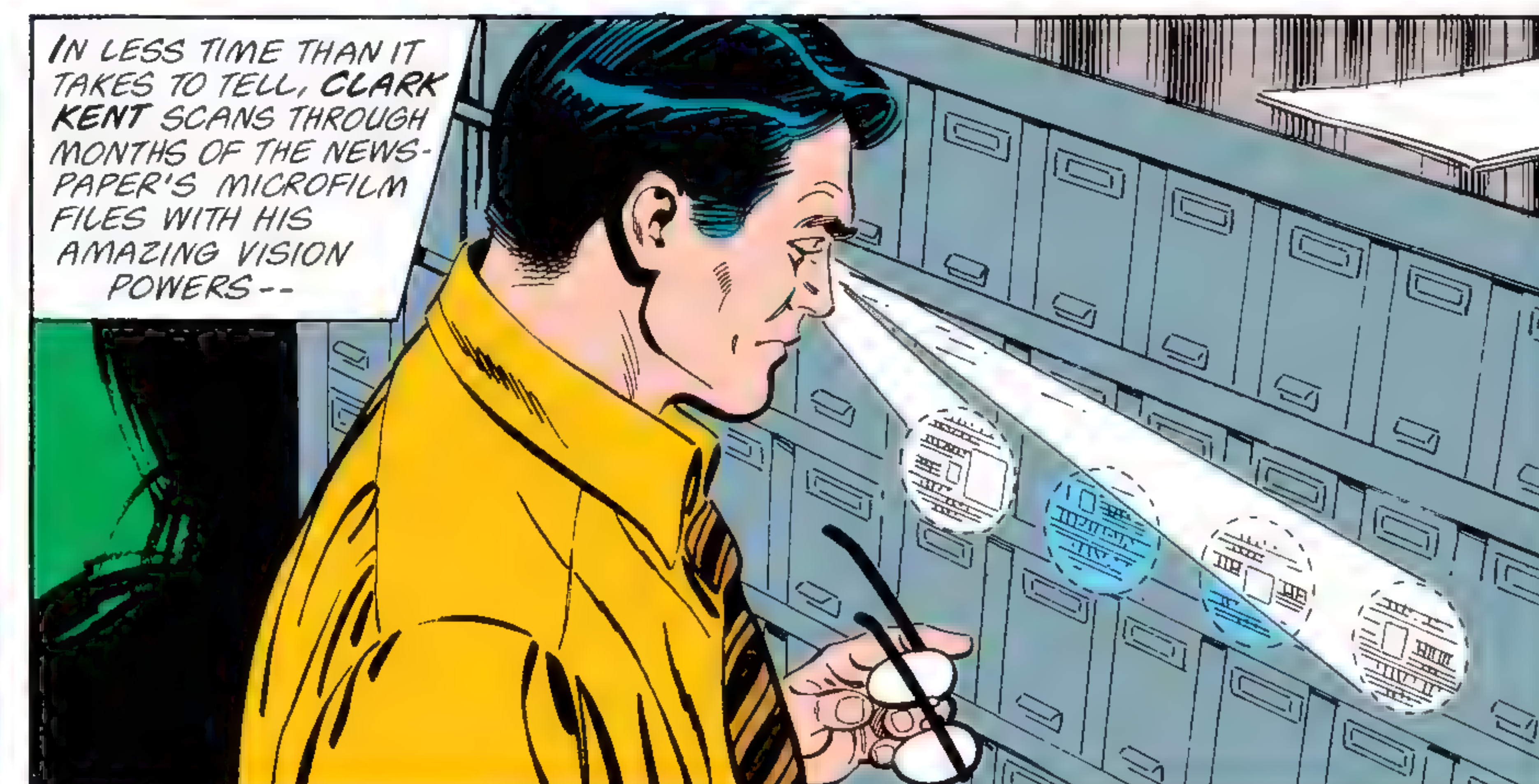
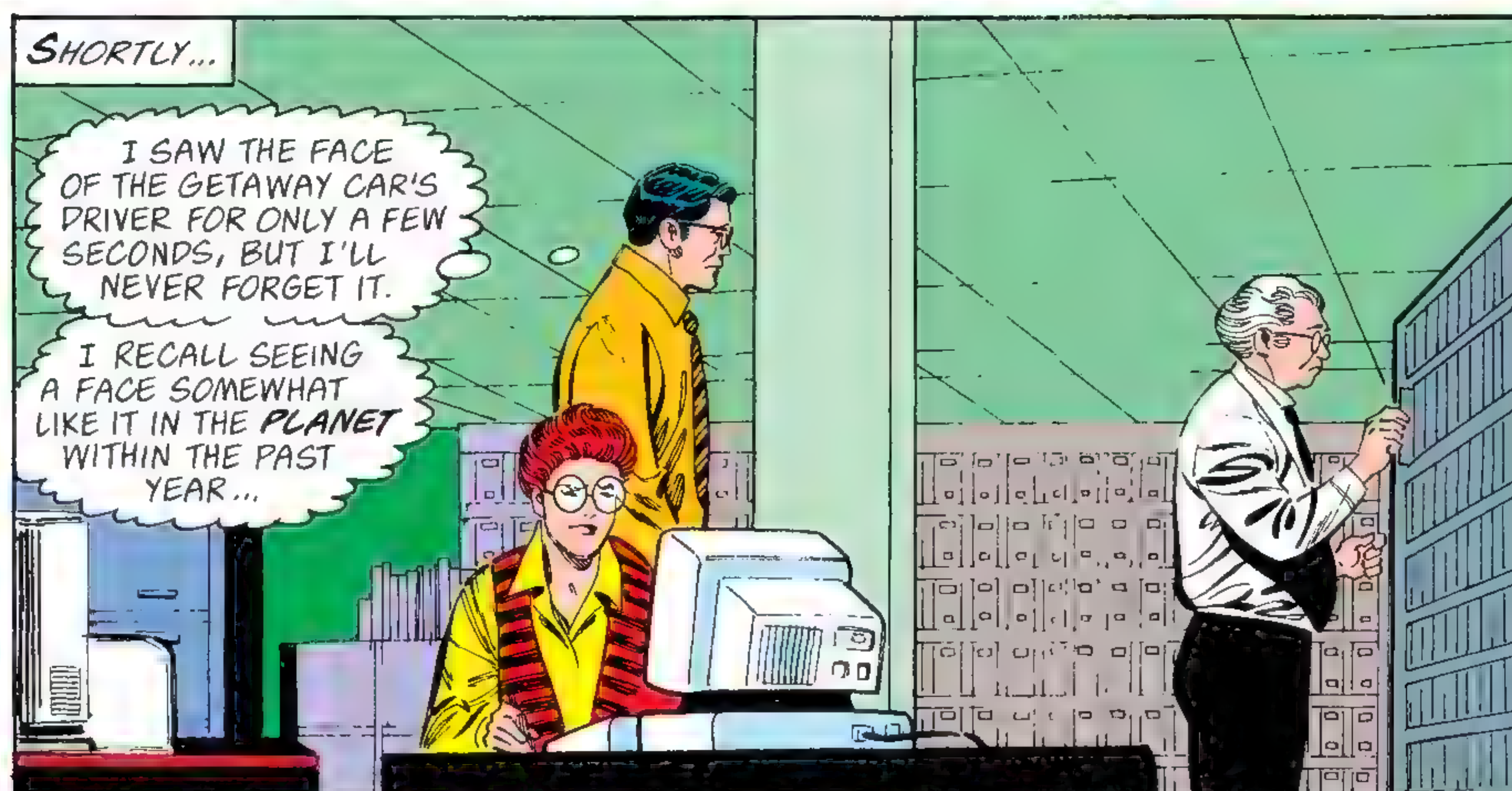
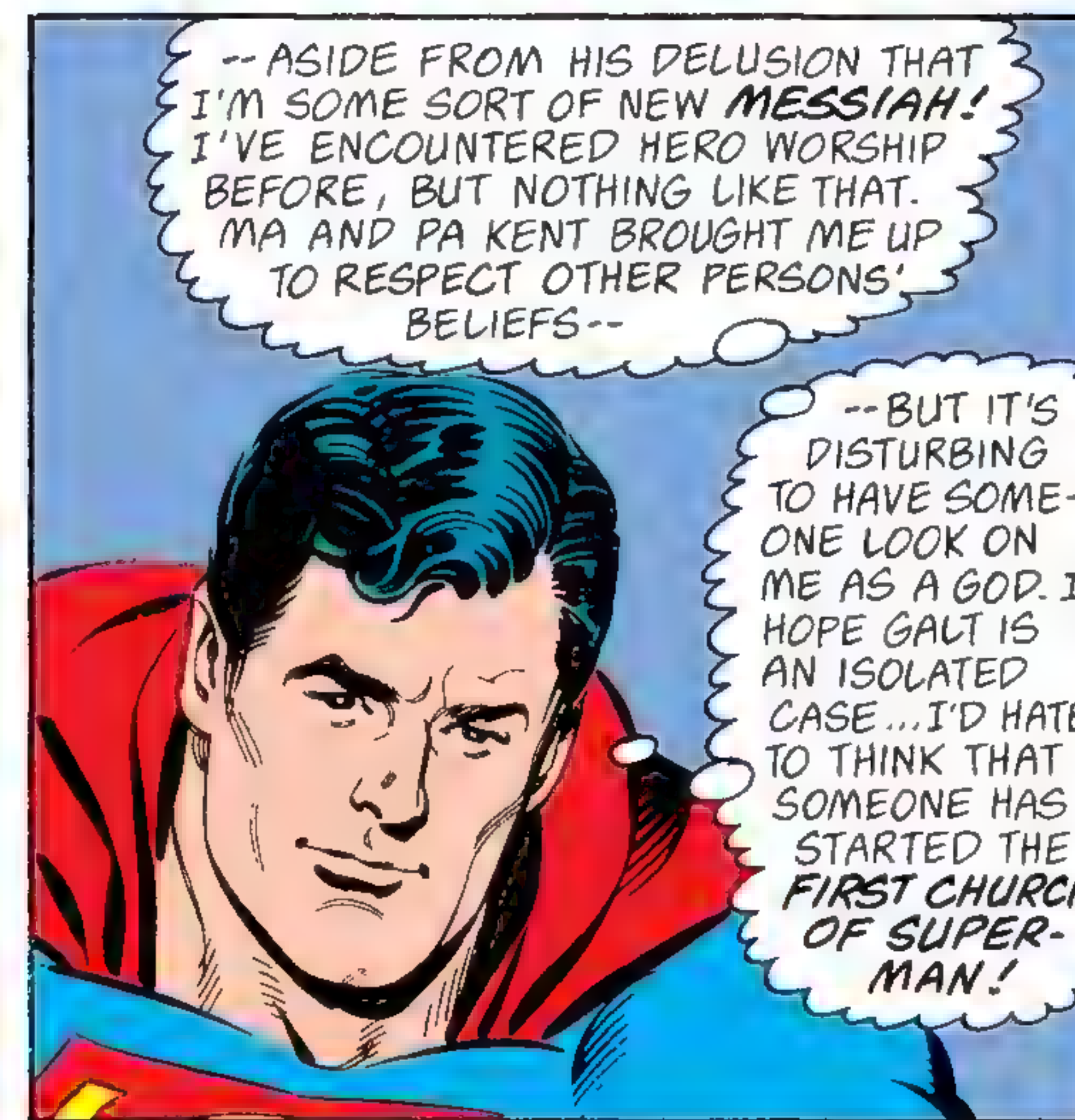
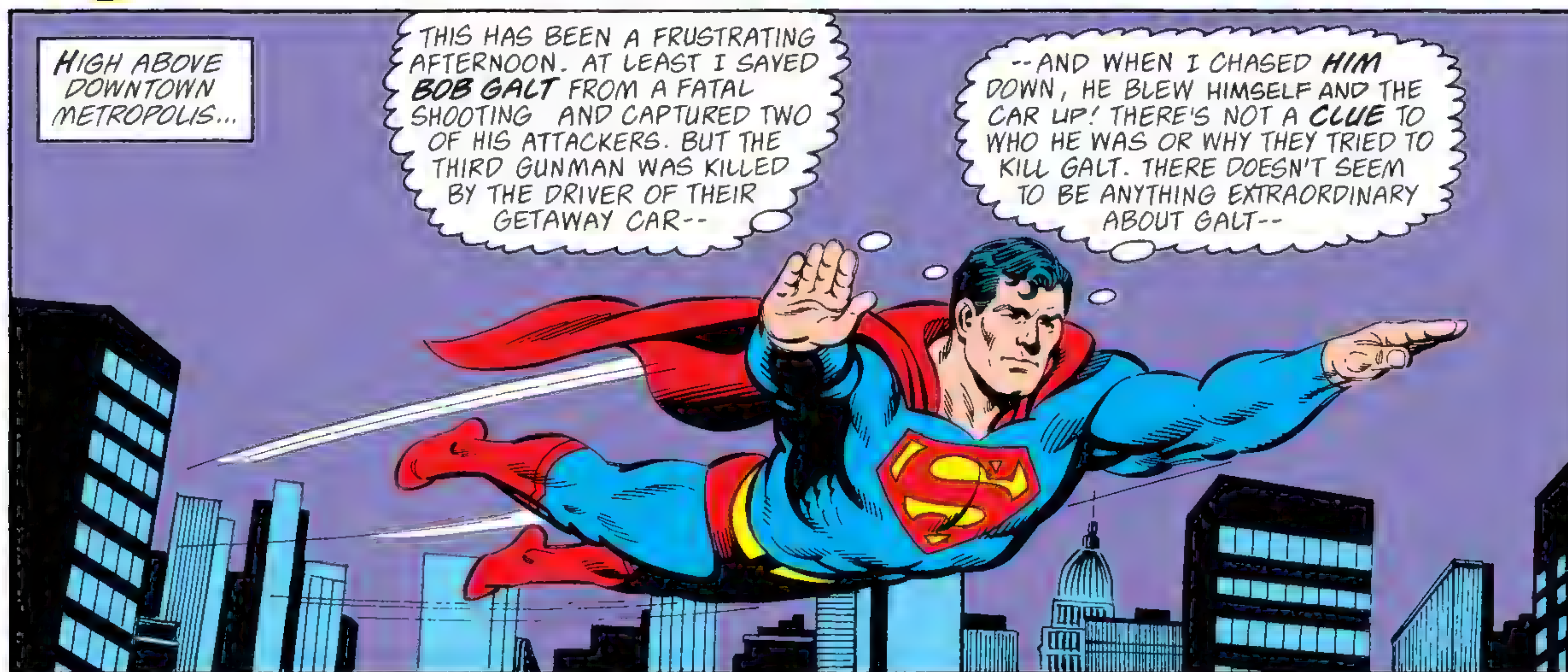


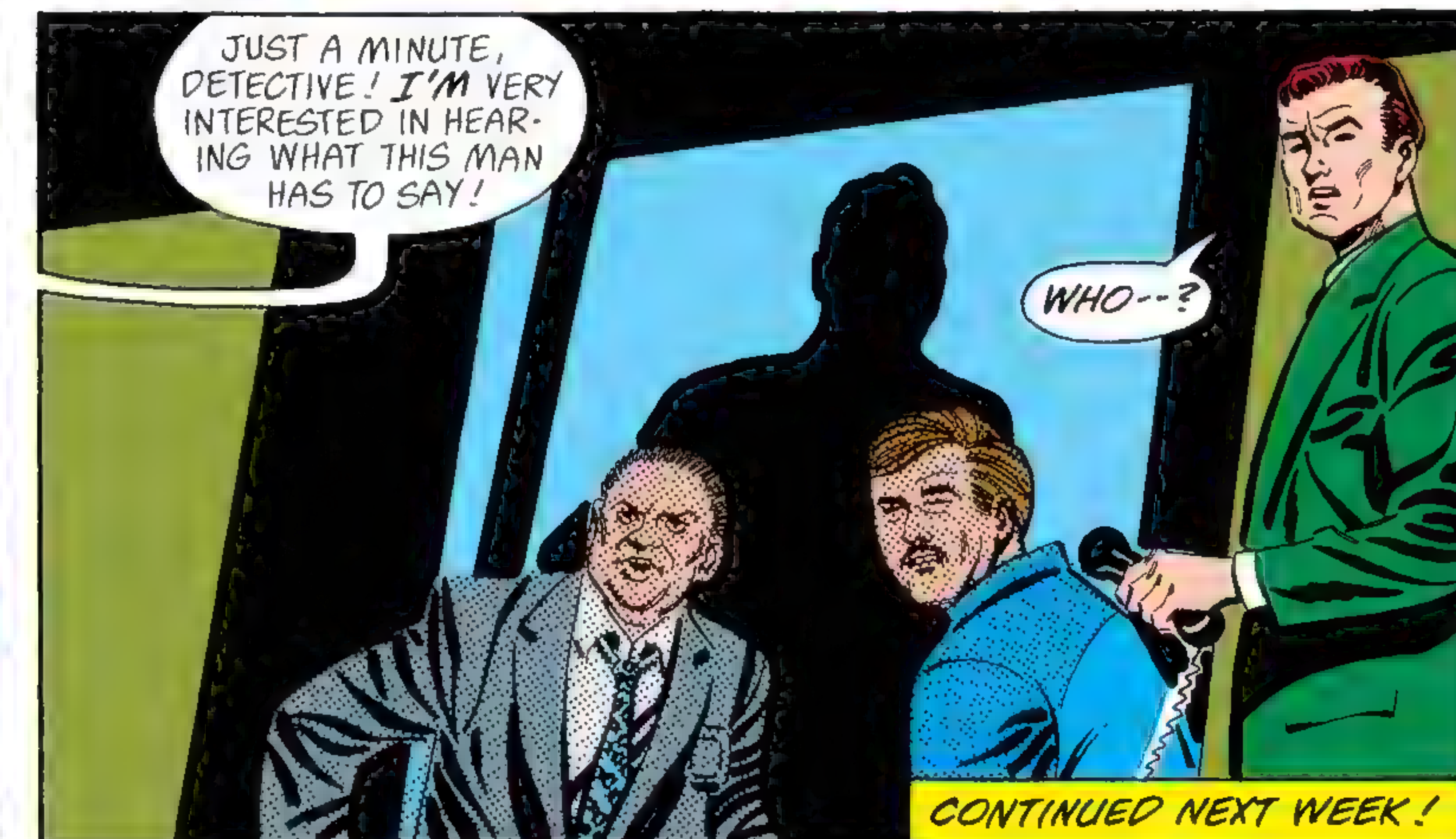
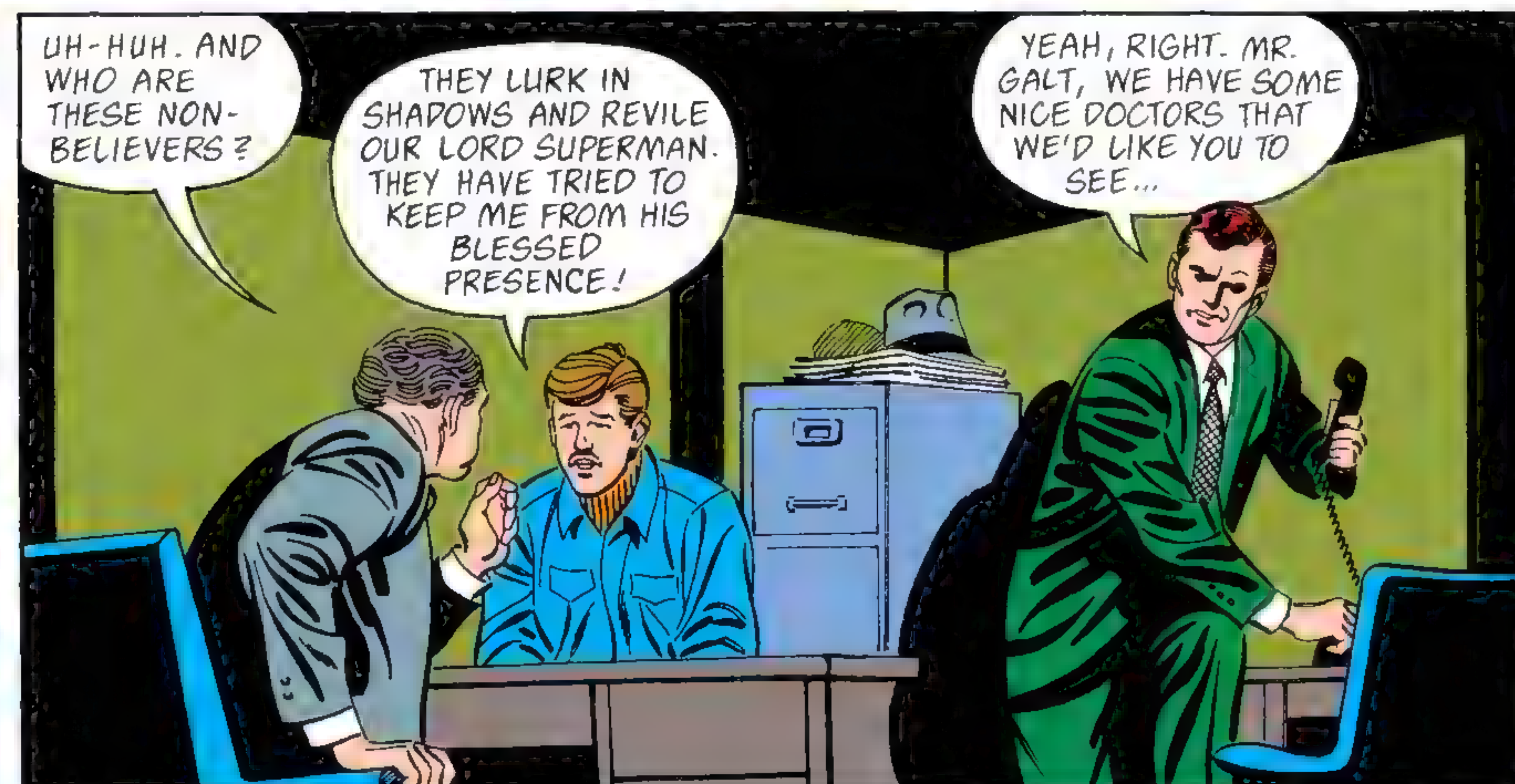
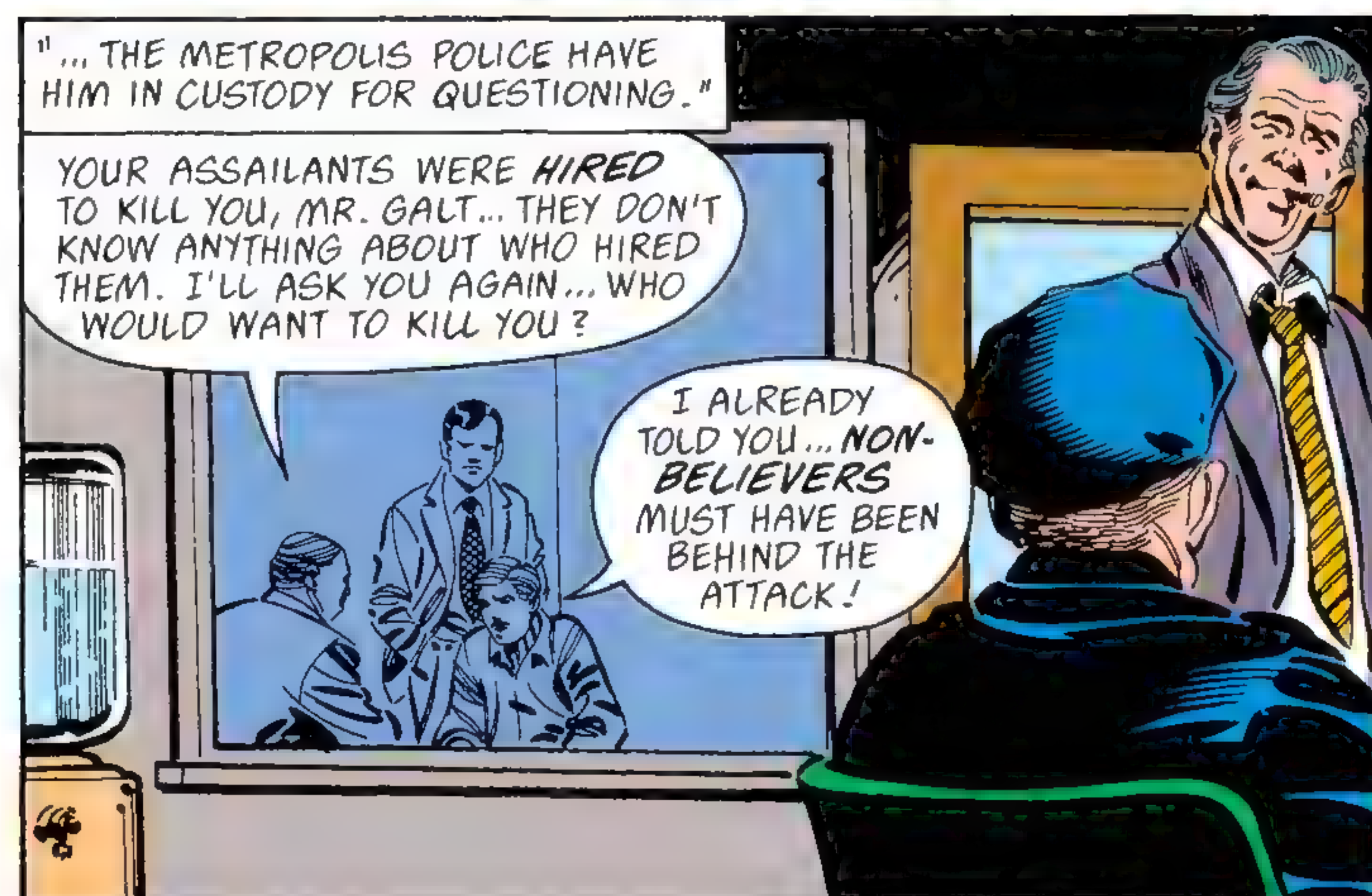
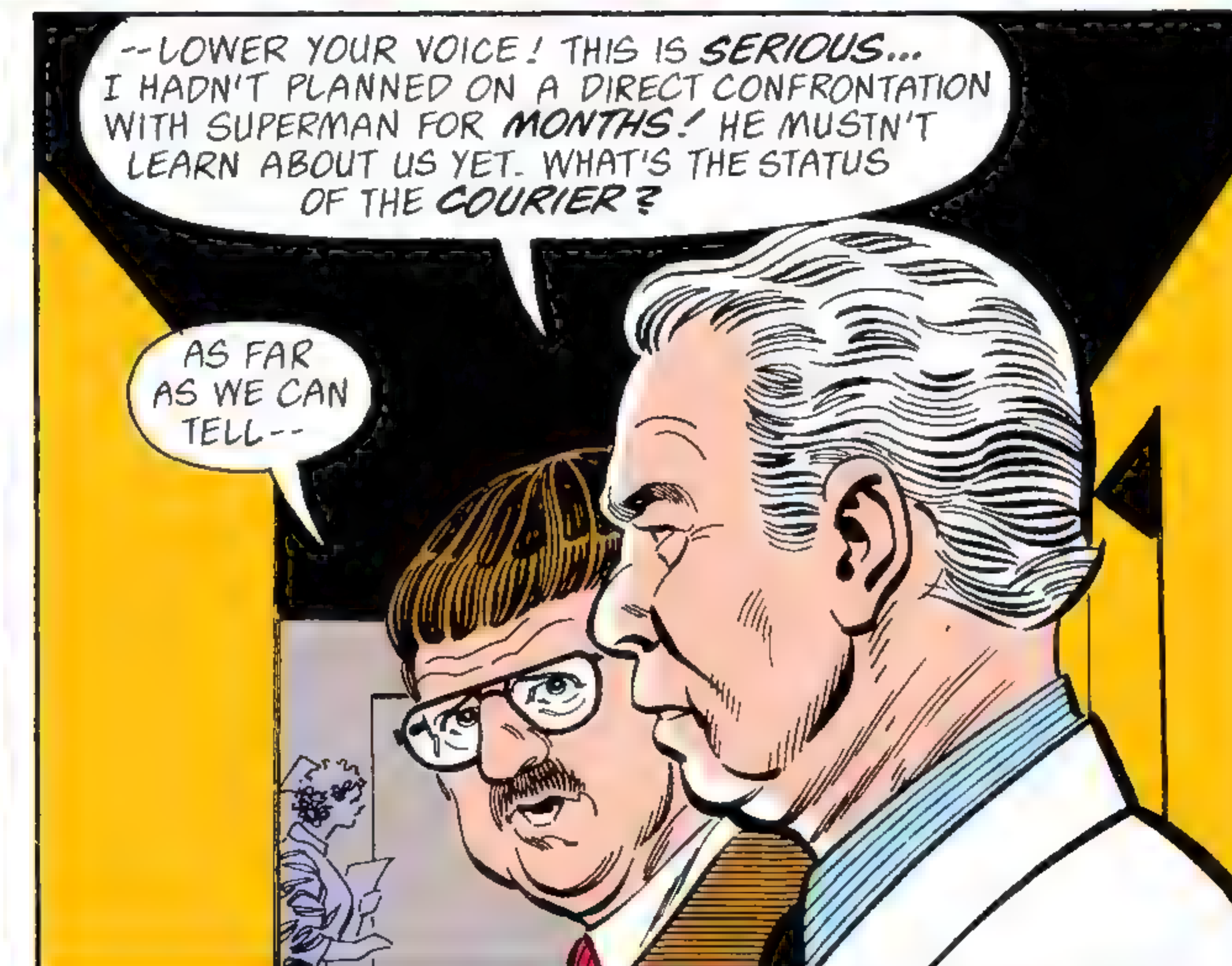
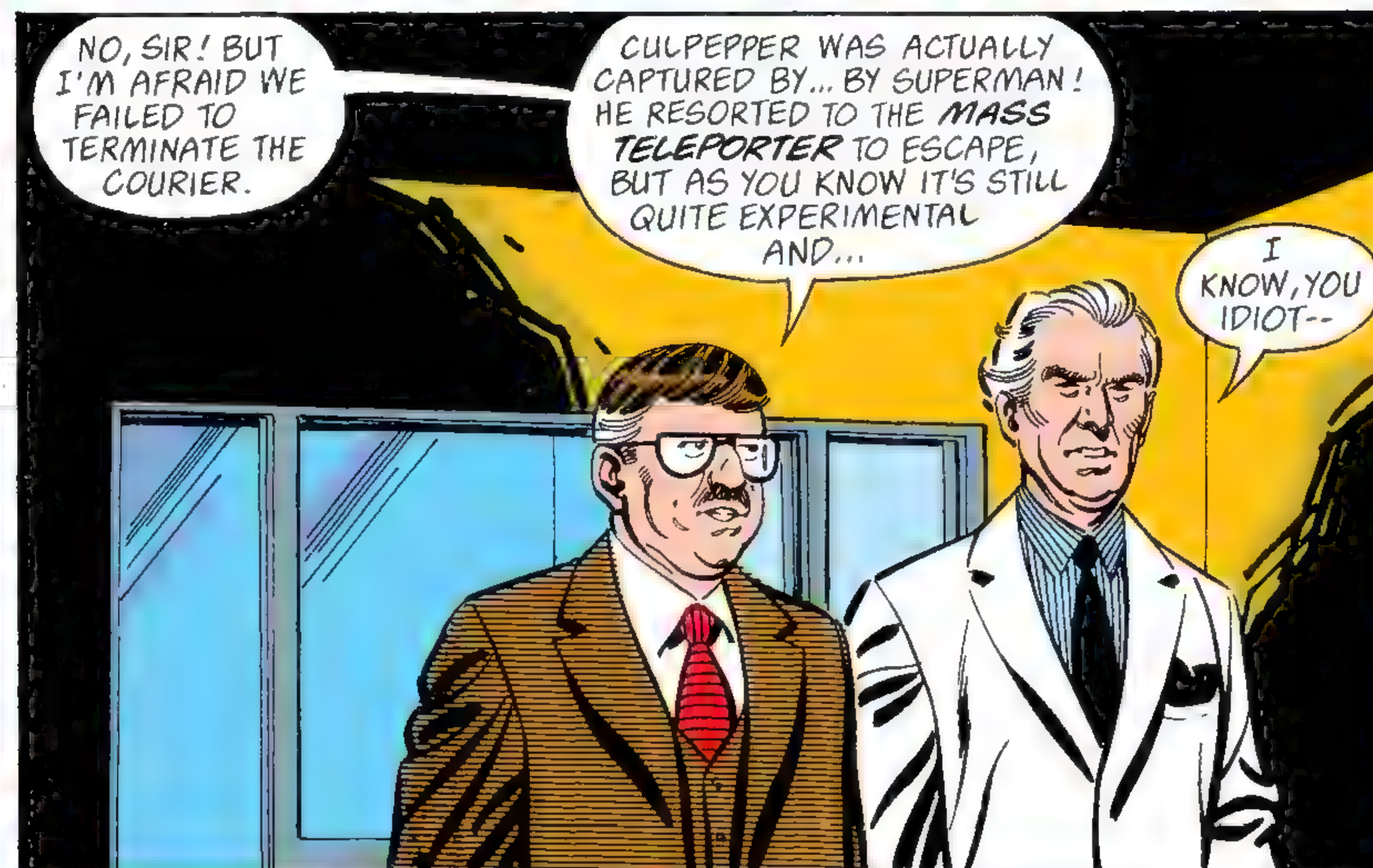
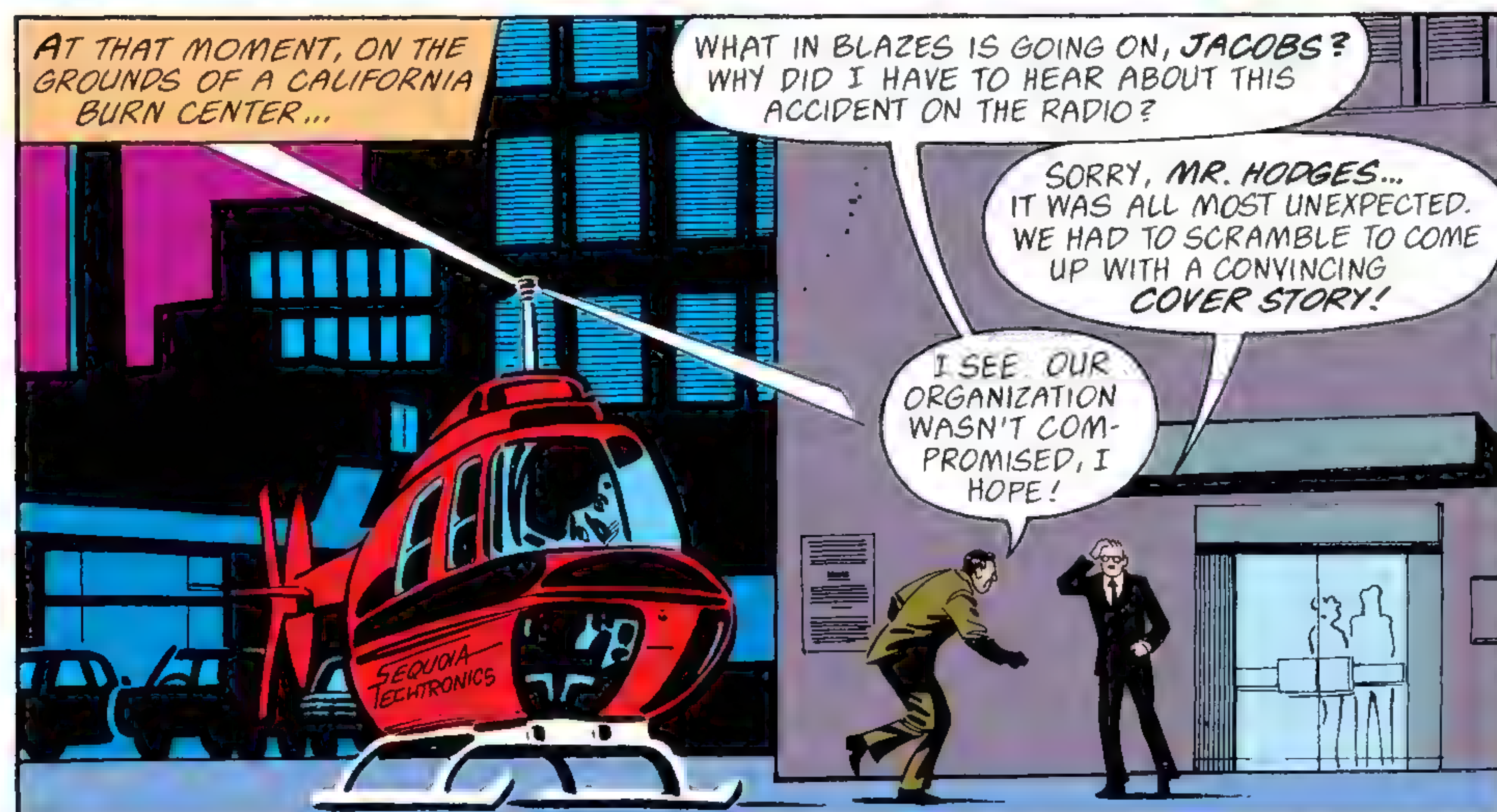
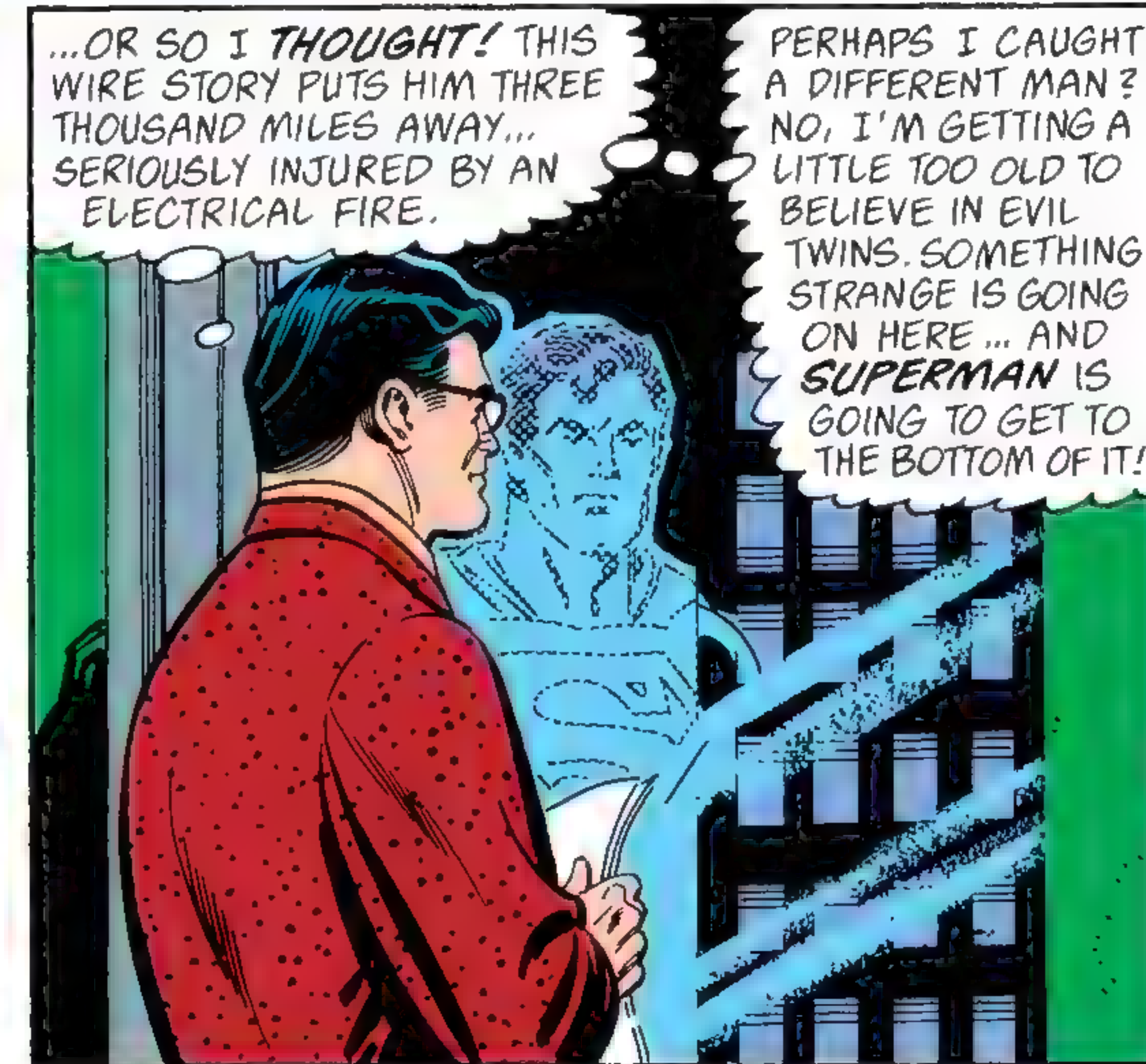
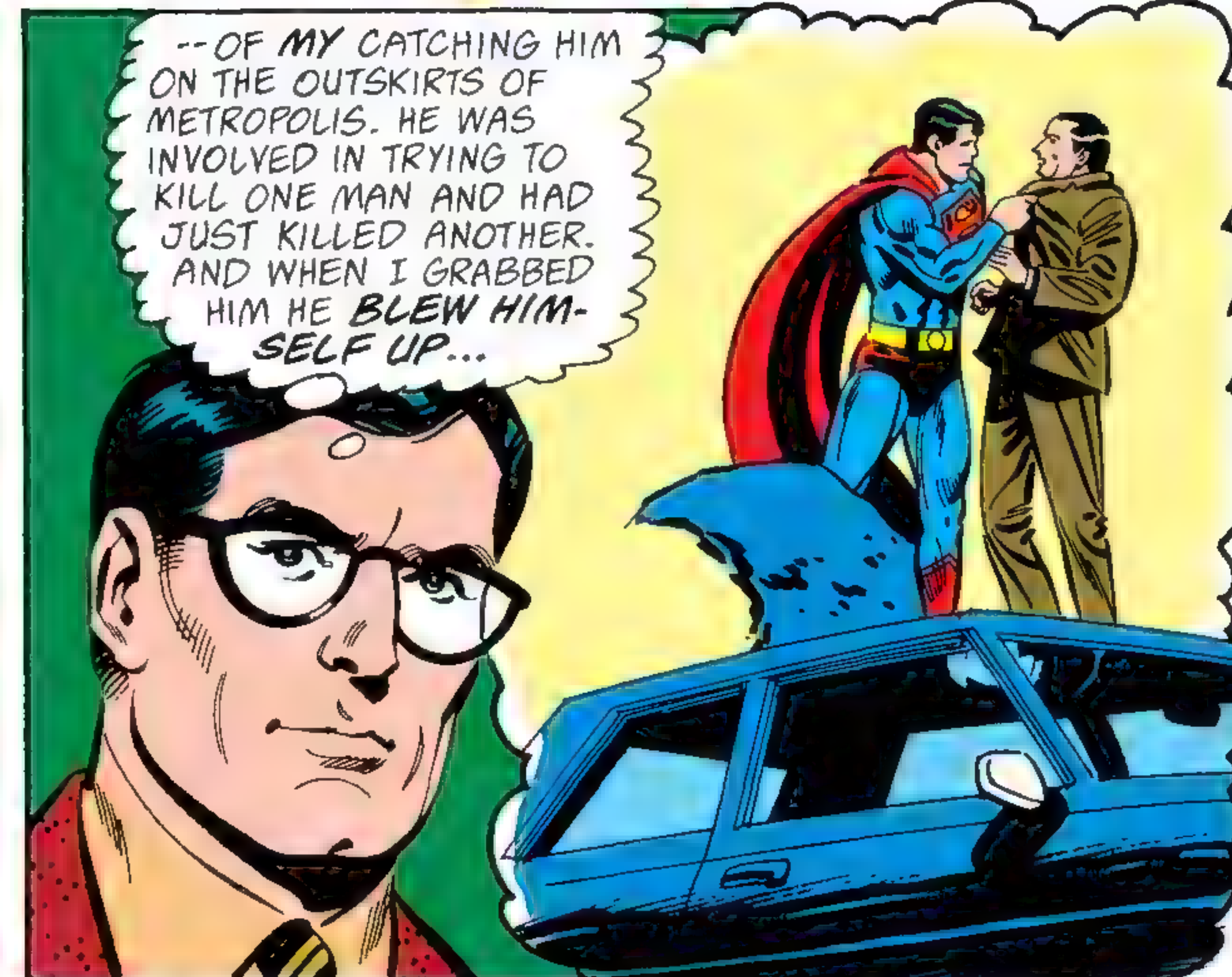
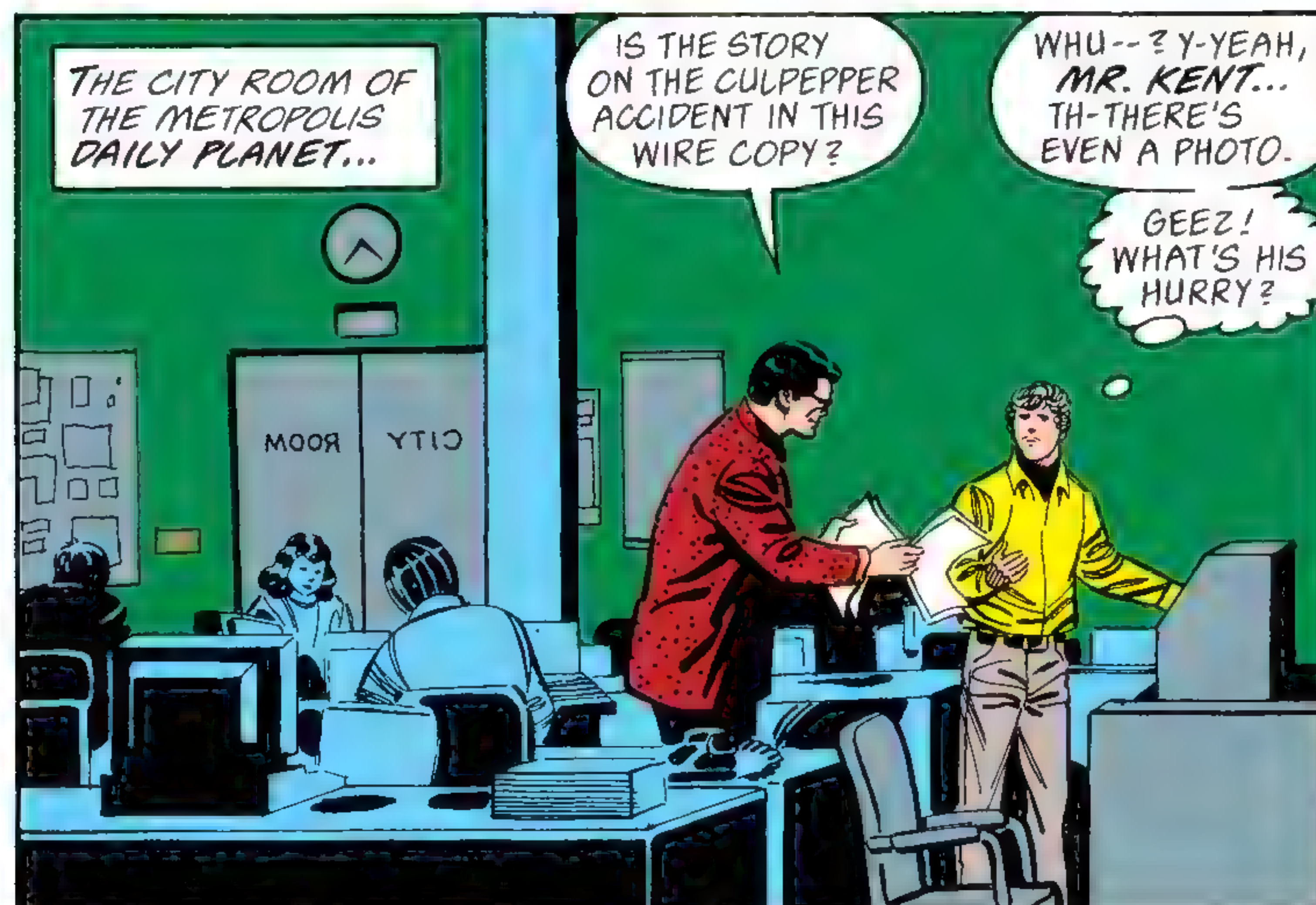


"FAMILIAR

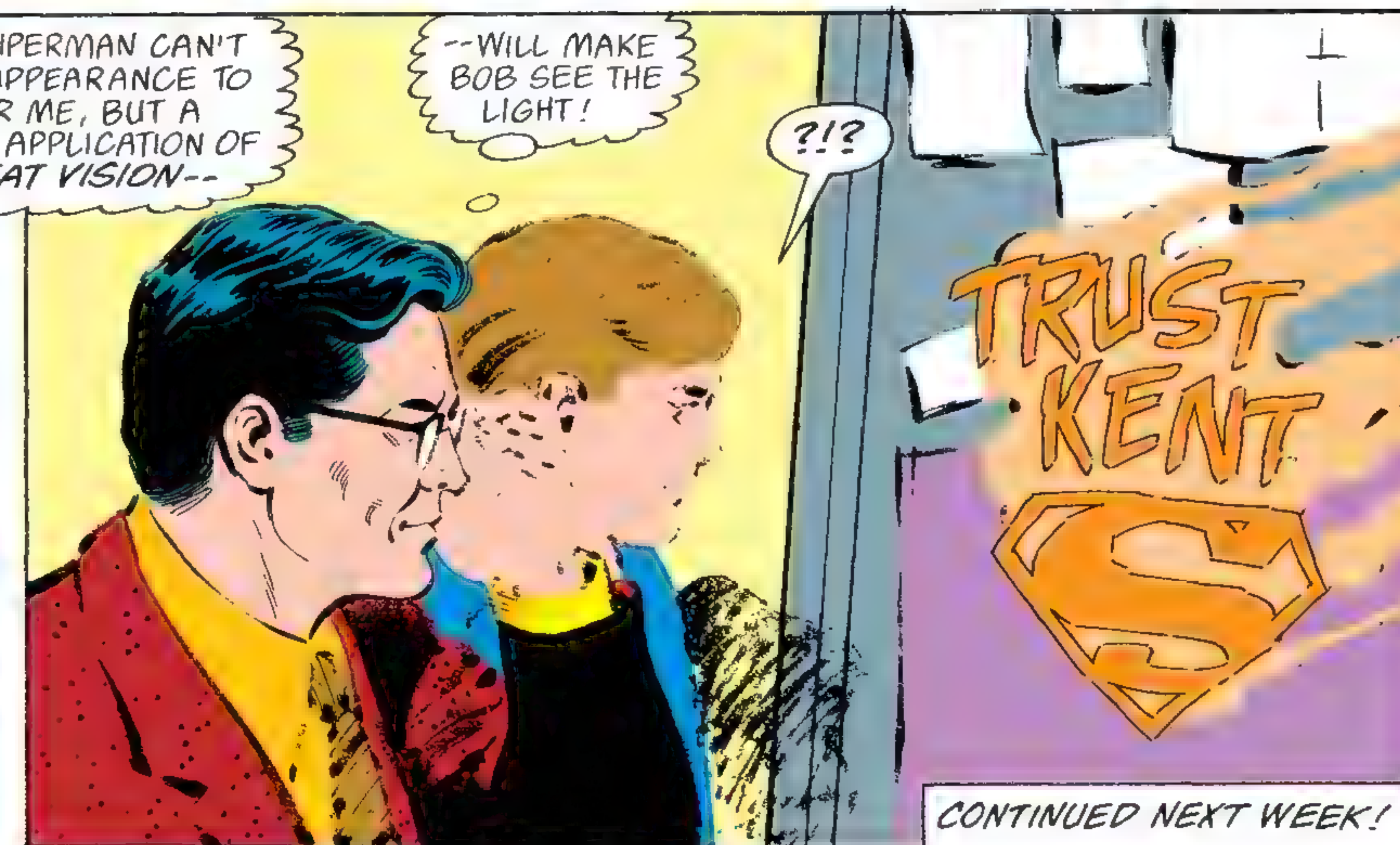
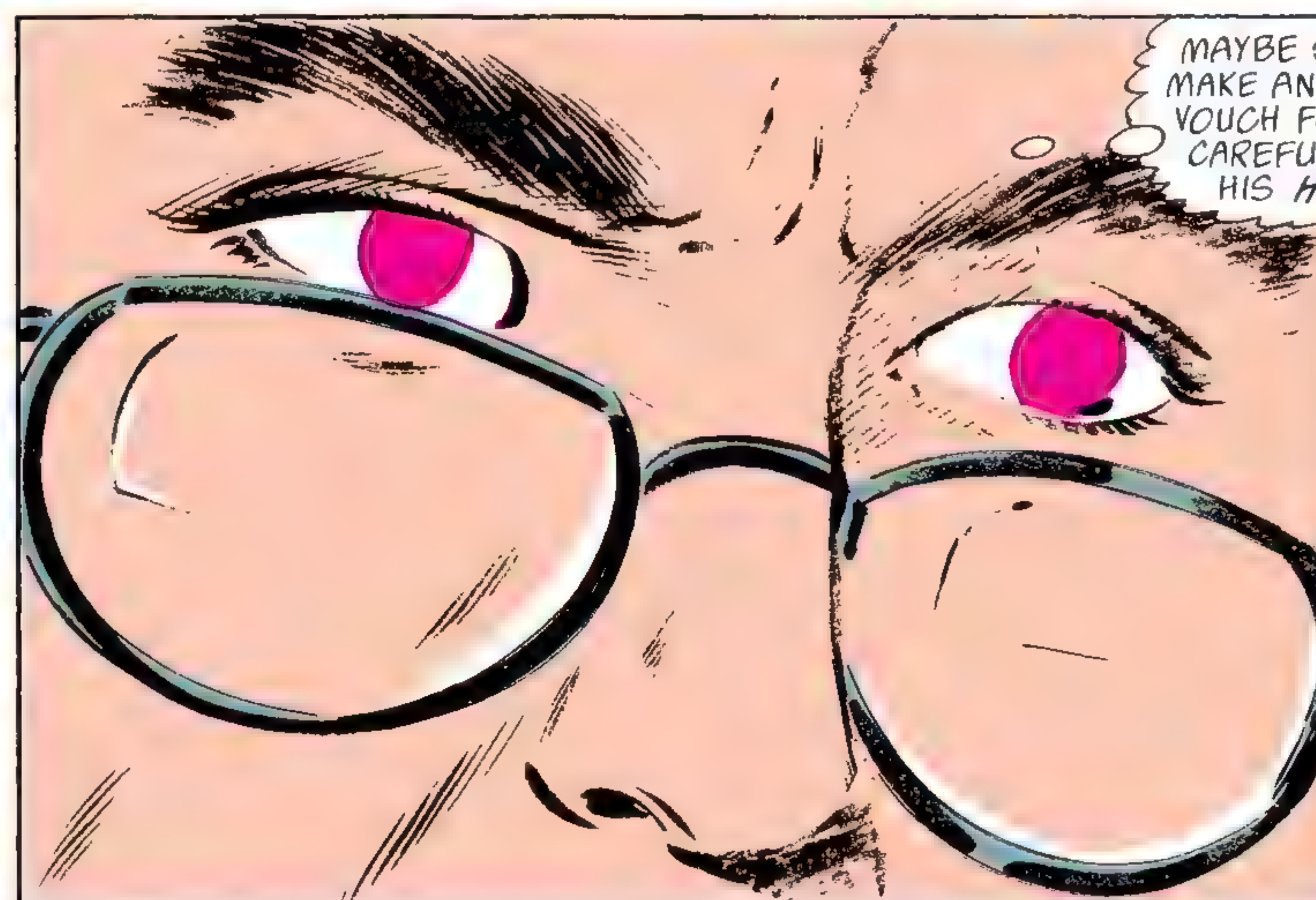
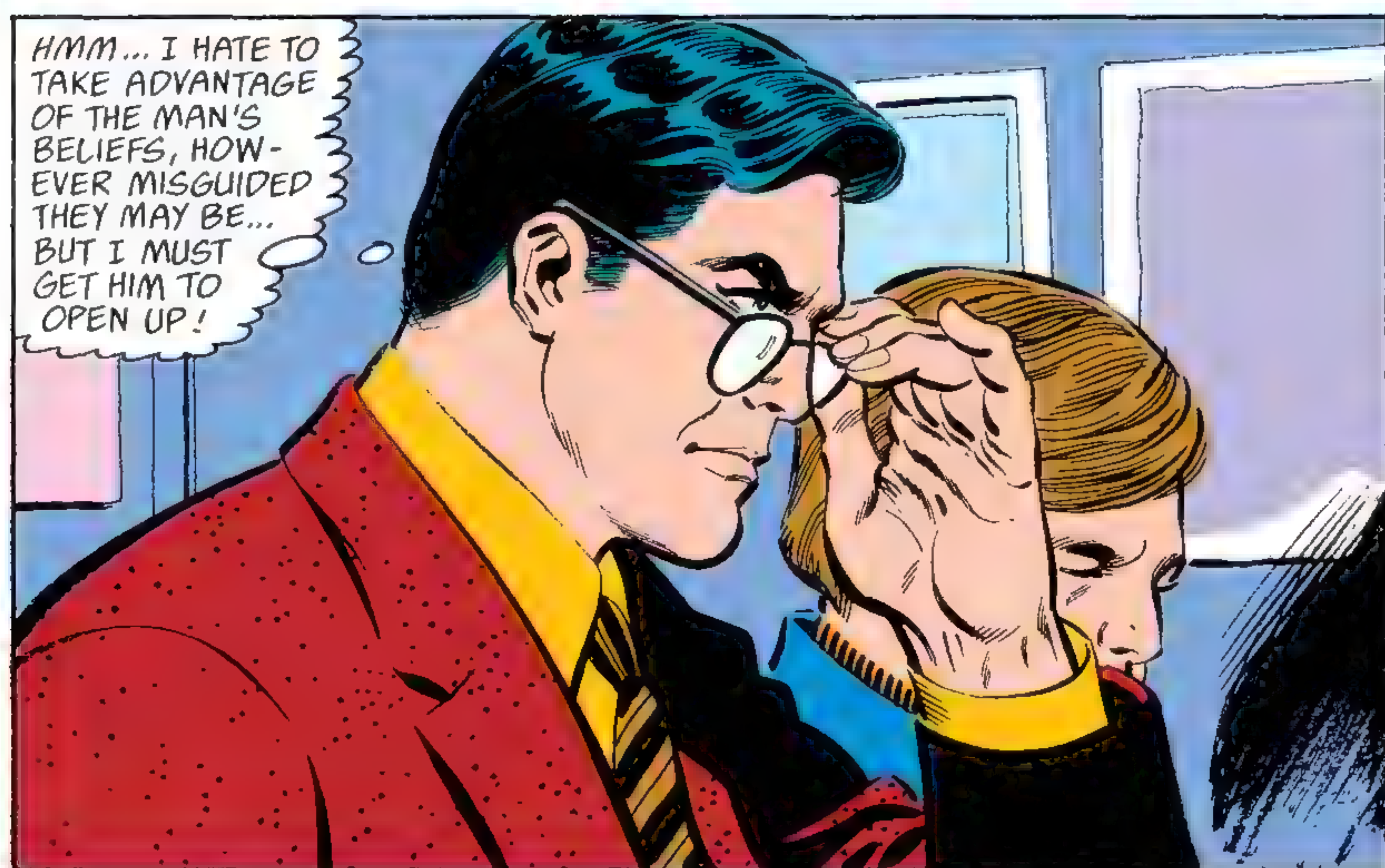
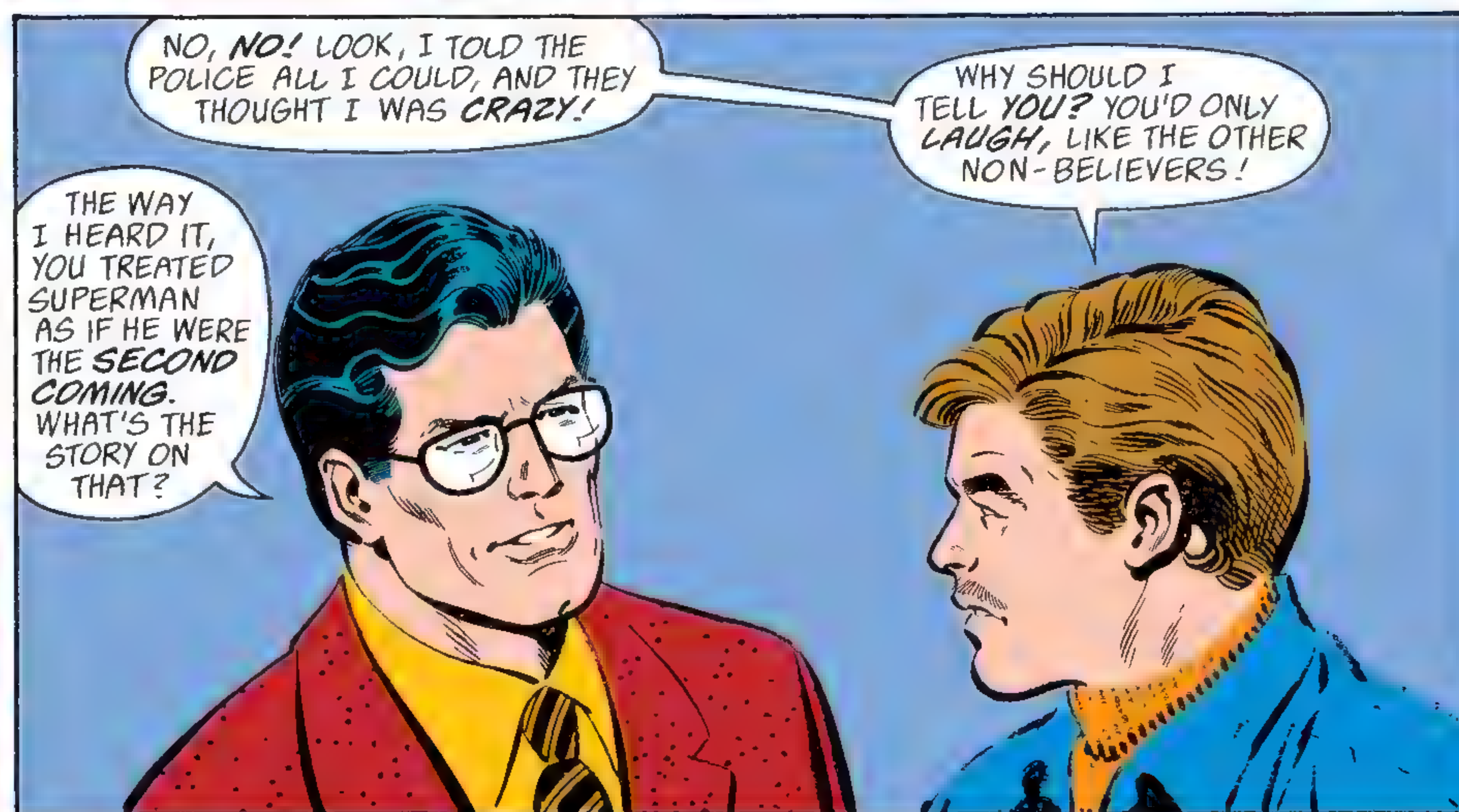
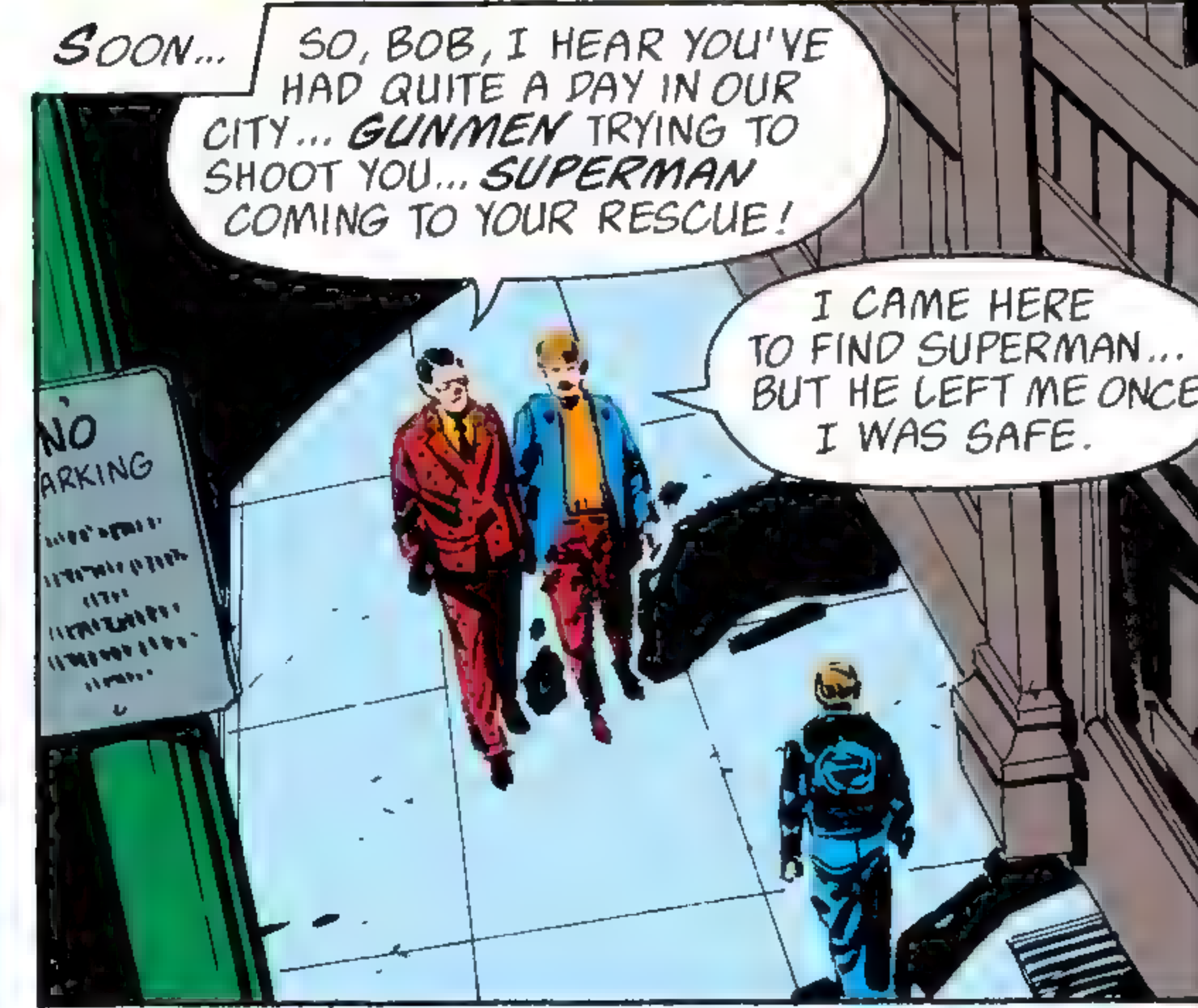
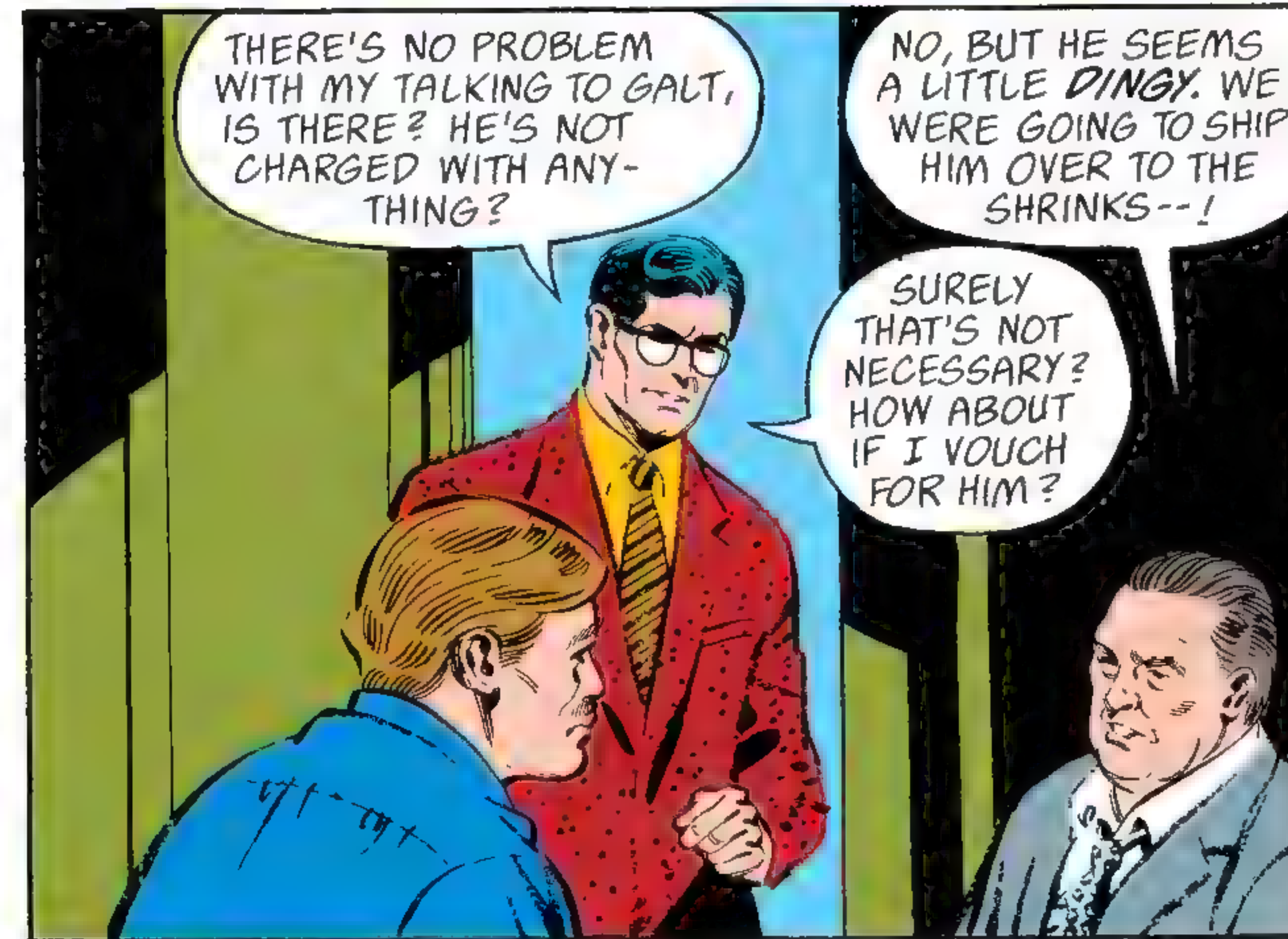
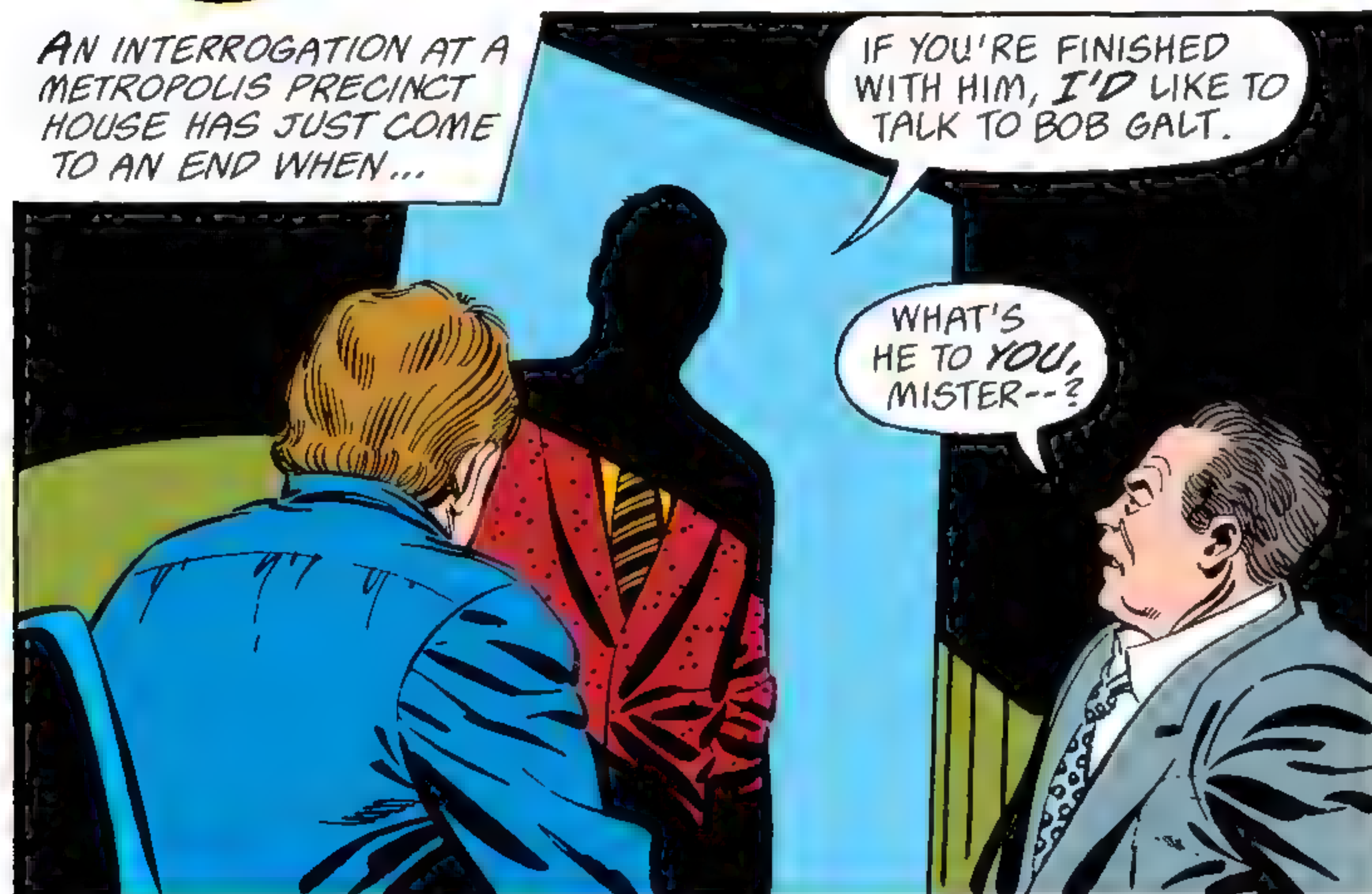
FACE?"

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
JOHN BEATTY - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
RENEE WITTERSTAETTER -
ASSISTANT EDITOR
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR





CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!



SUPERMAN

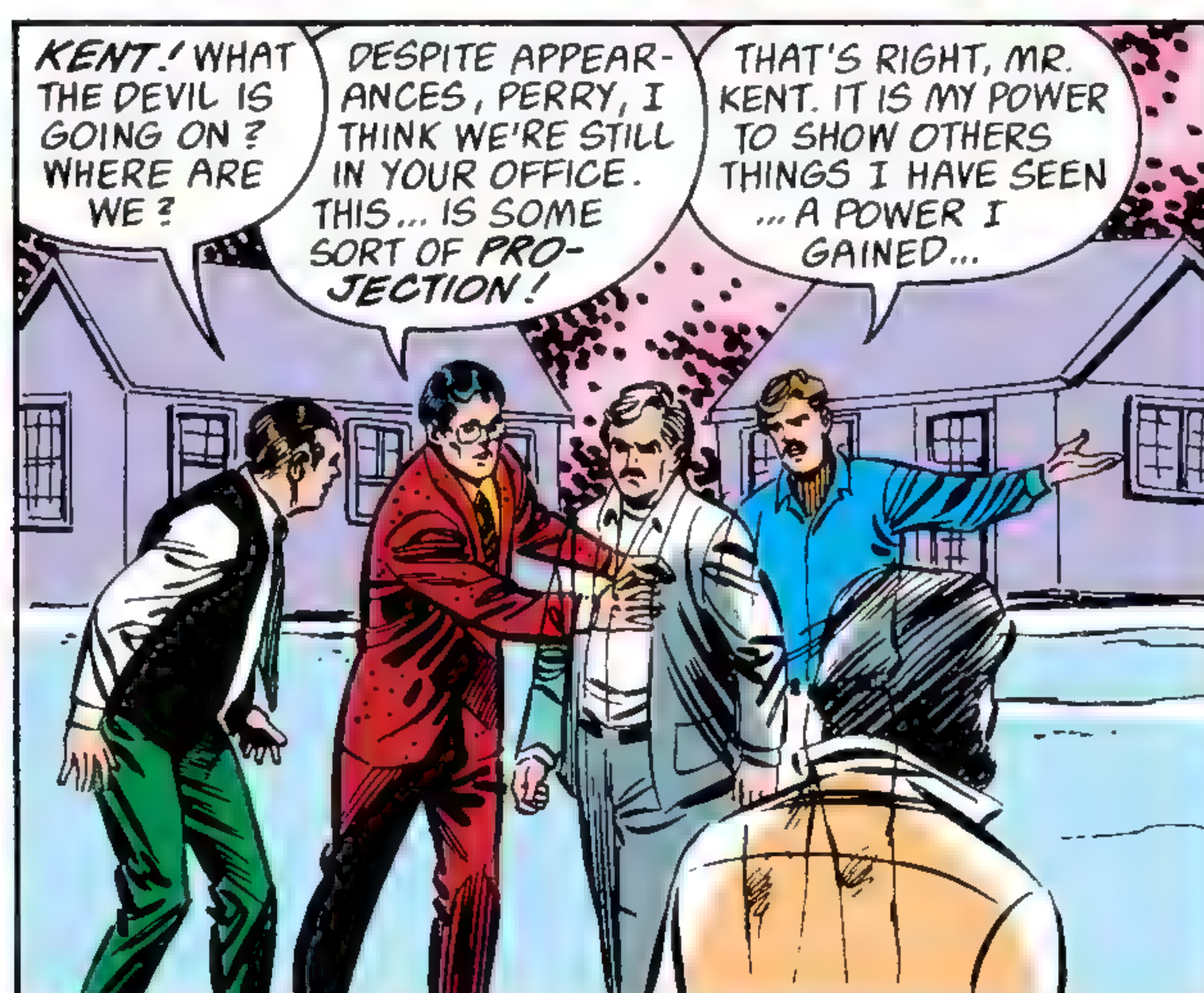
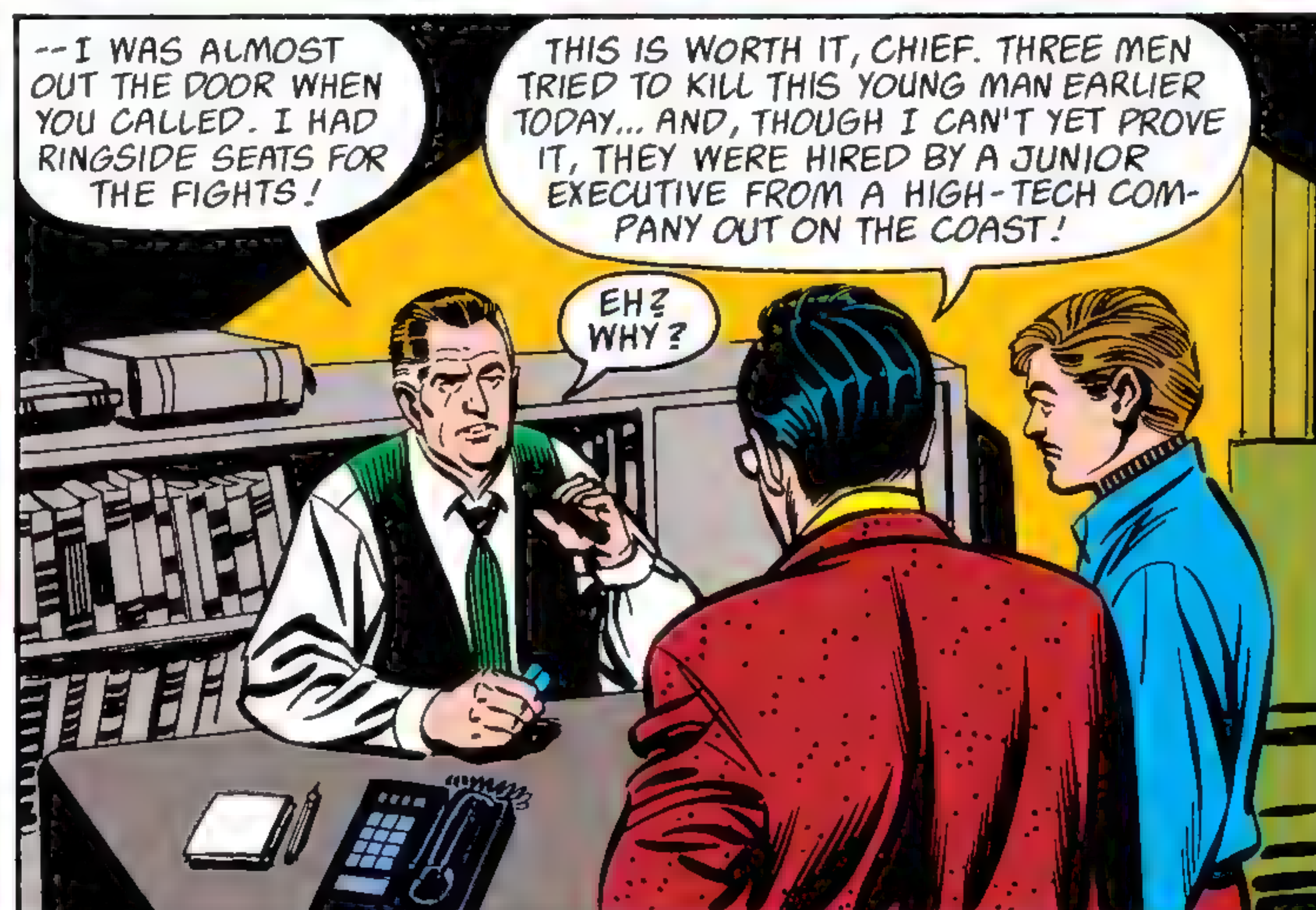
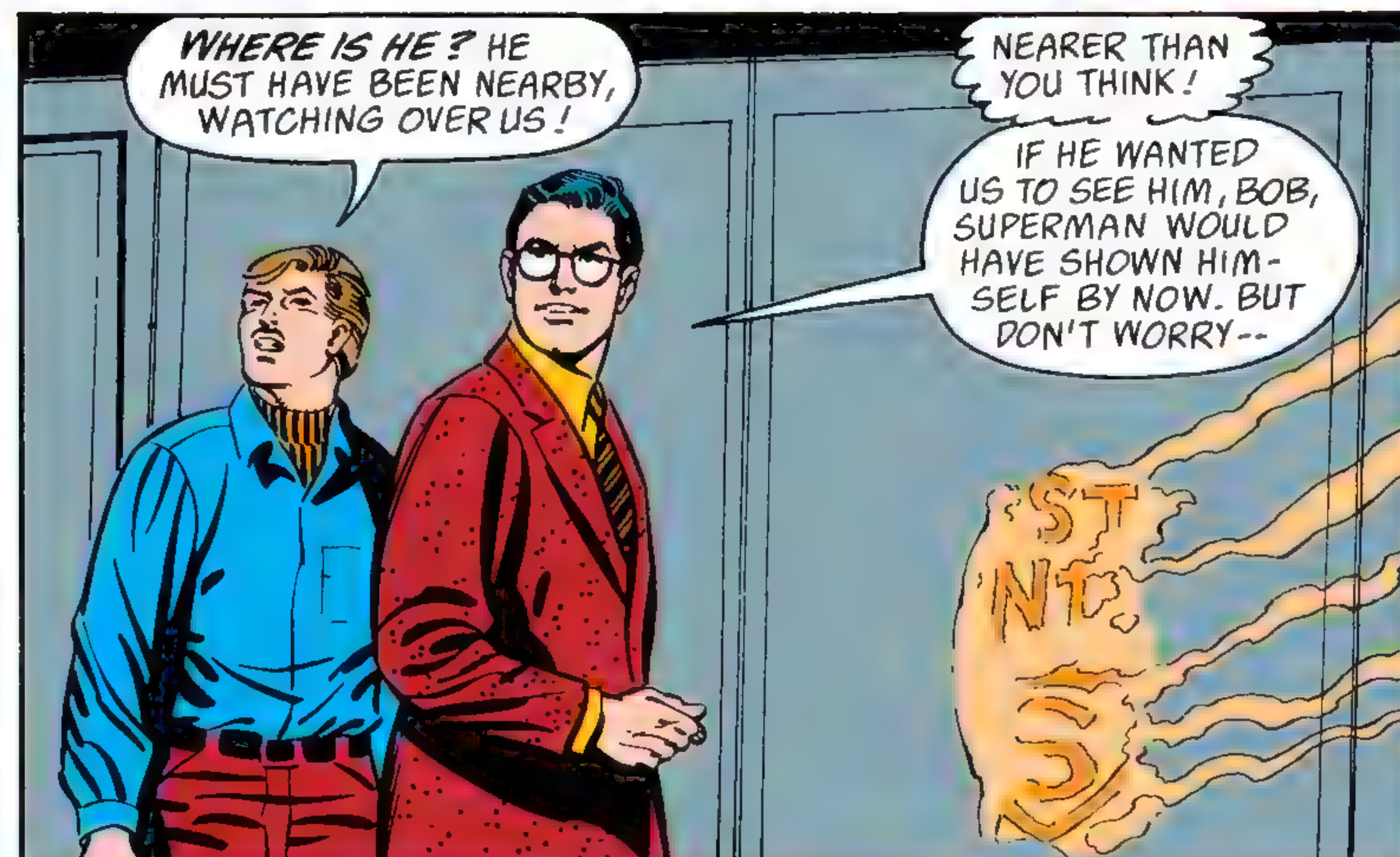
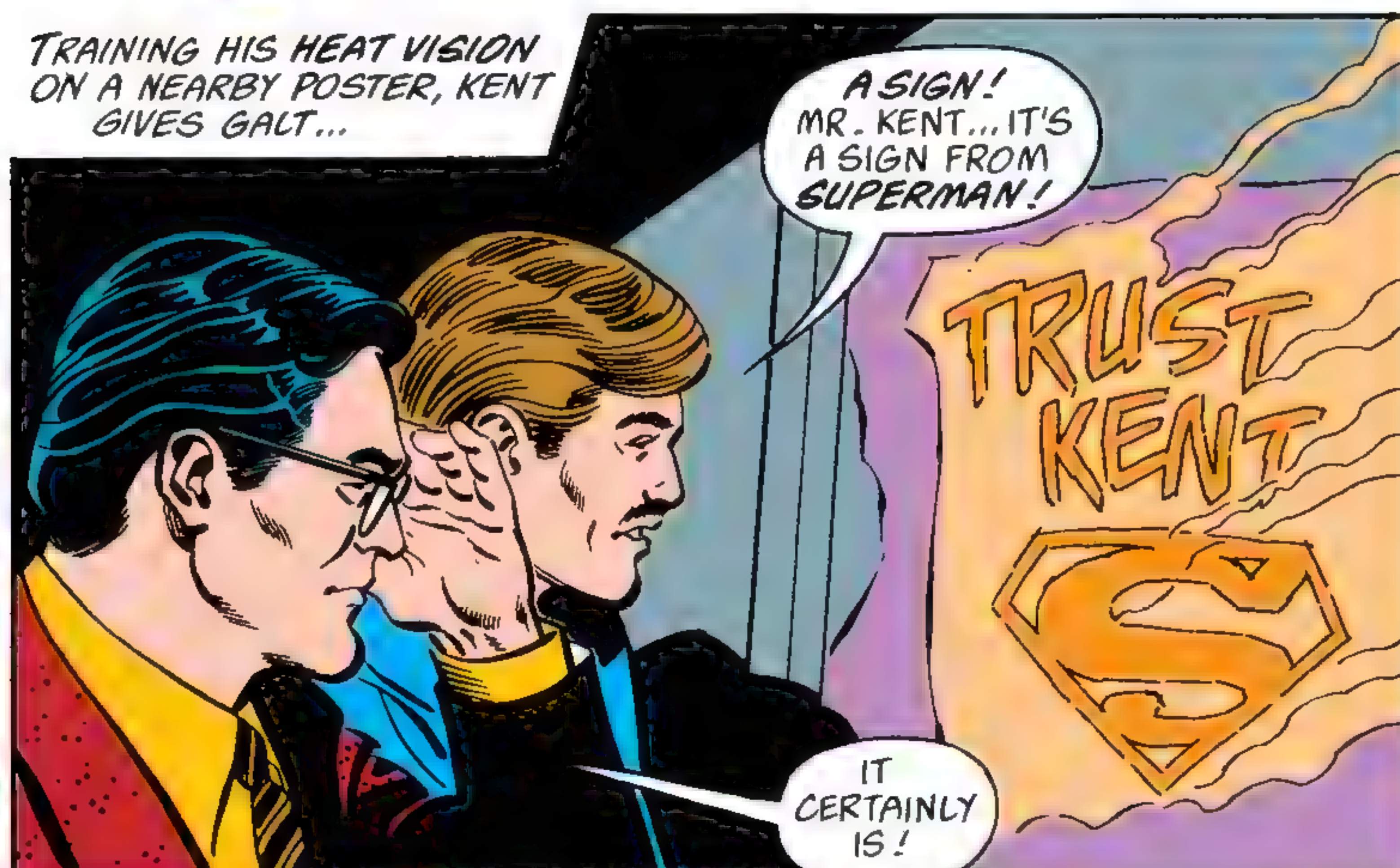
Created by
JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER

LAST WEEK: CLARK KENT, SECRETLY SUPERMAN, TRIED TO QUESTION BOB GALT, A YOUNG MAN WHO LITERALLY WORSHIPS SUPERMAN. BUT GALT CONSIDERED KENT A NON-BELIEVER AND REFUSED TO TALK...

"SHOW & TELL"

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
JOHN BEATTY - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR

TRAINING HIS HEAT VISION ON A NEARBY POSTER, KENT GIVES GALT...



CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!

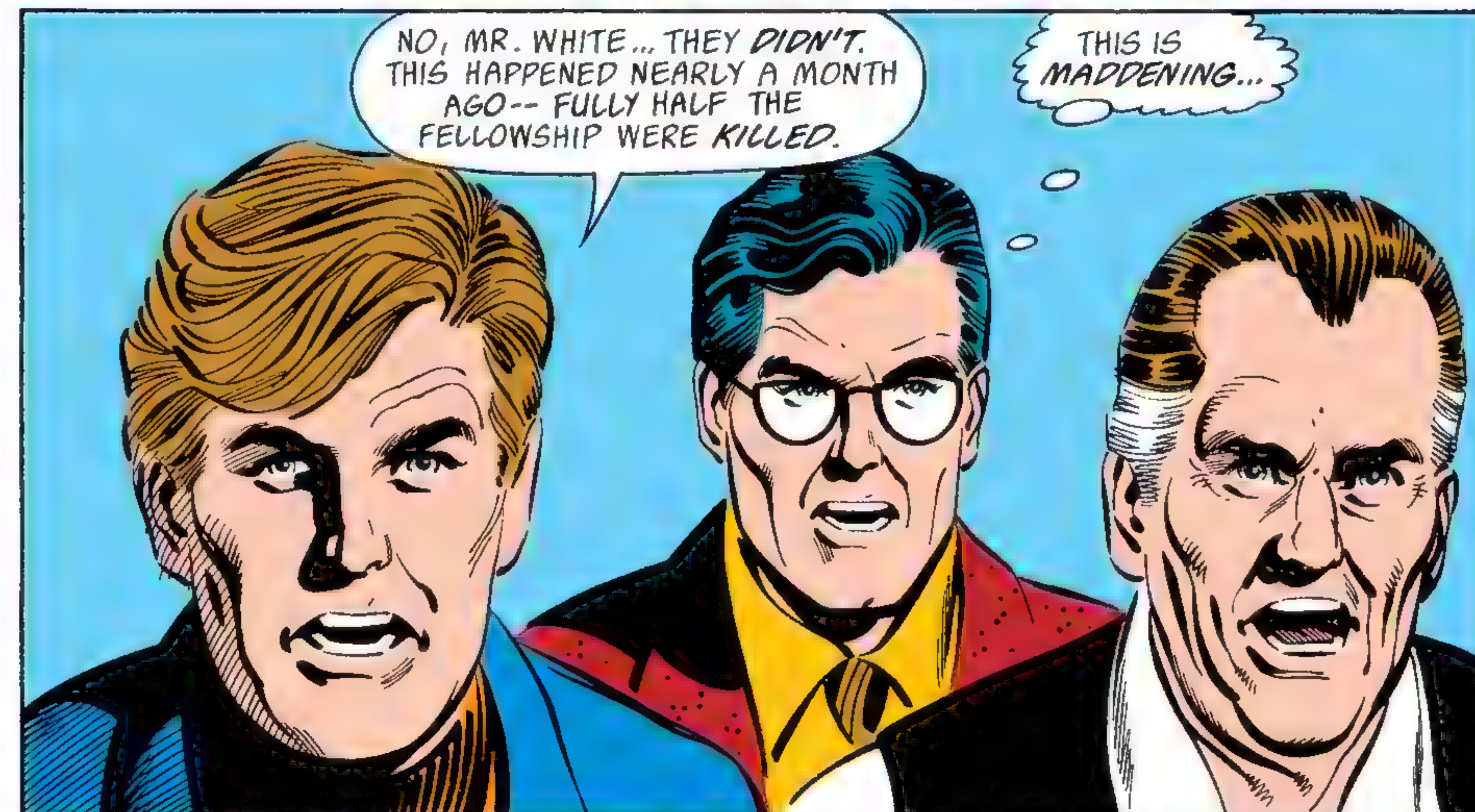
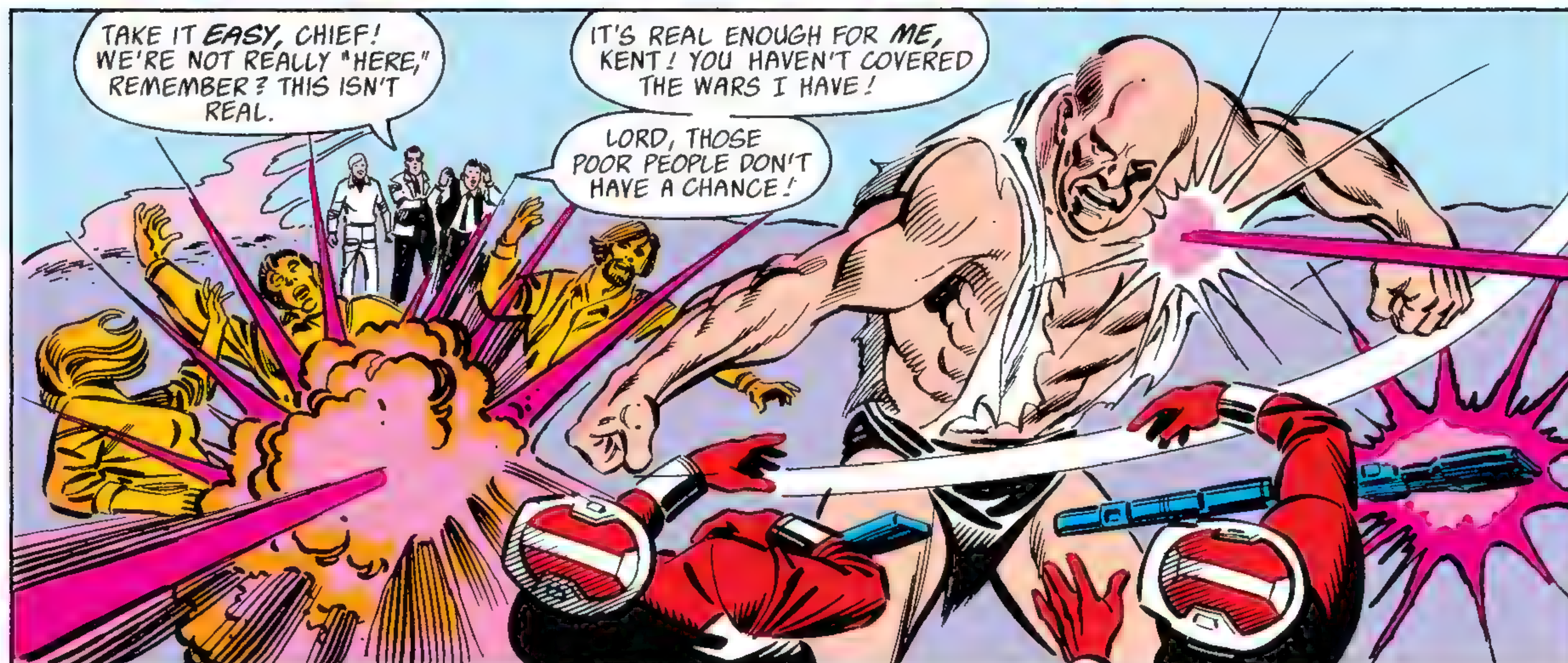
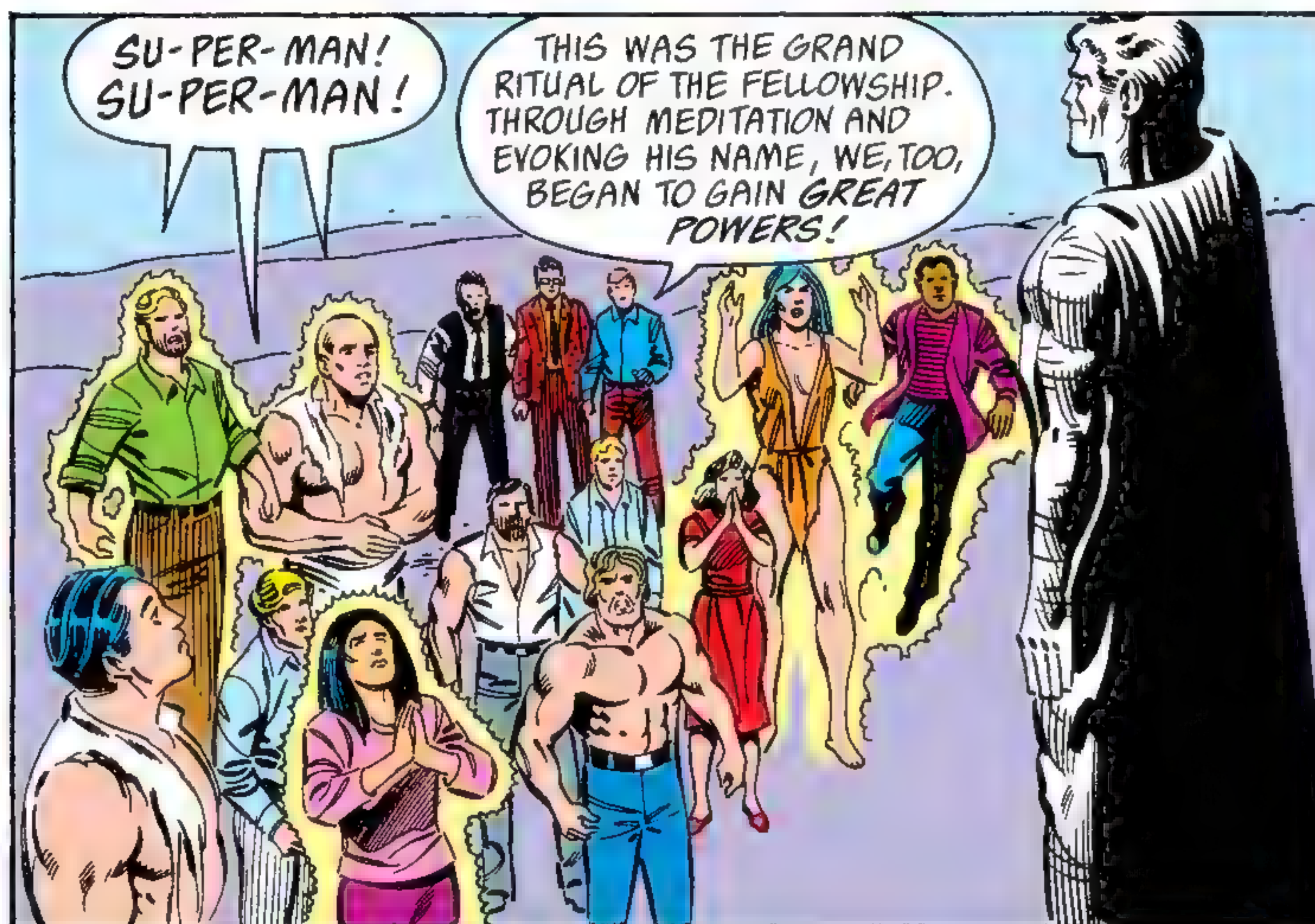
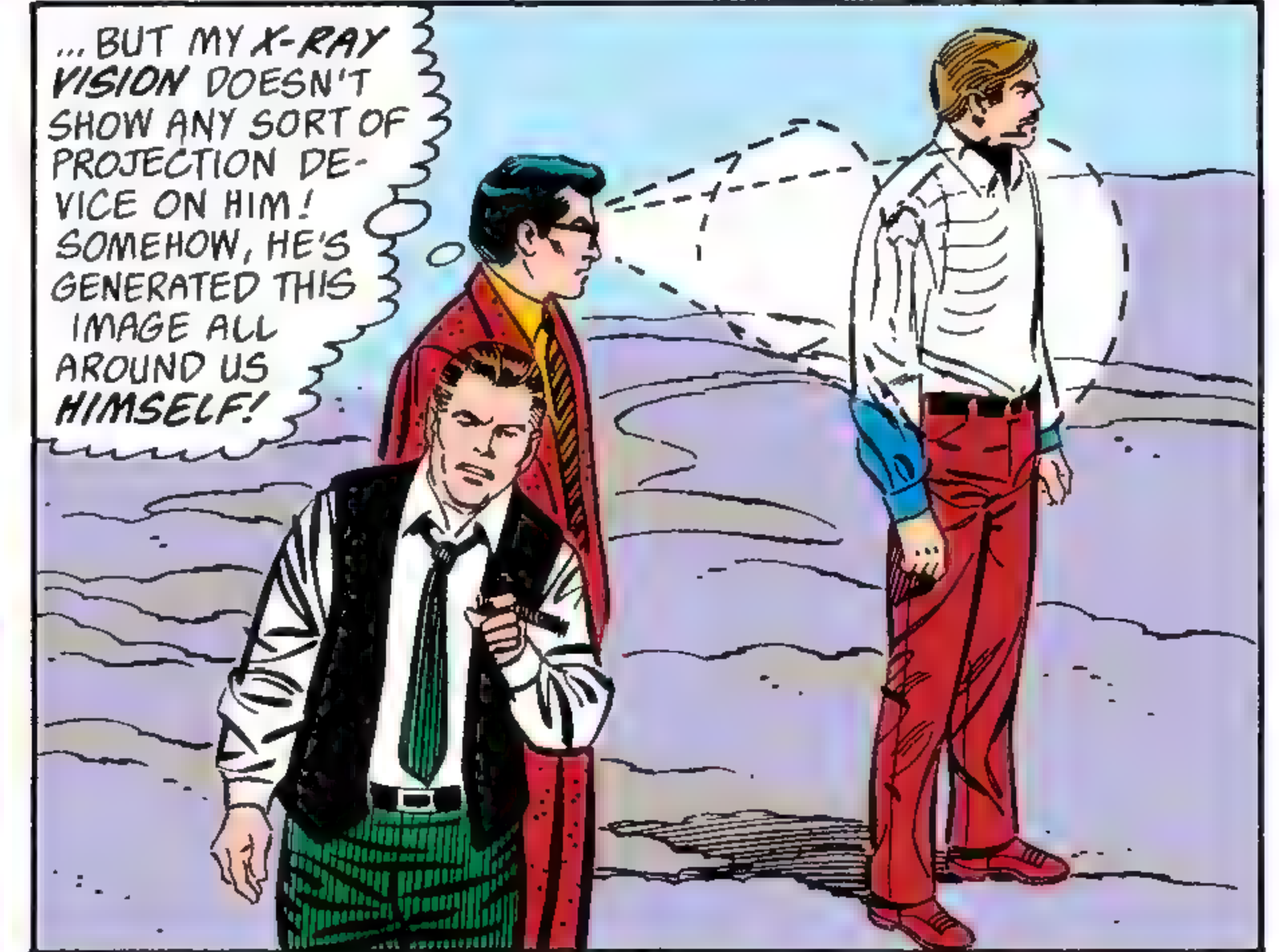
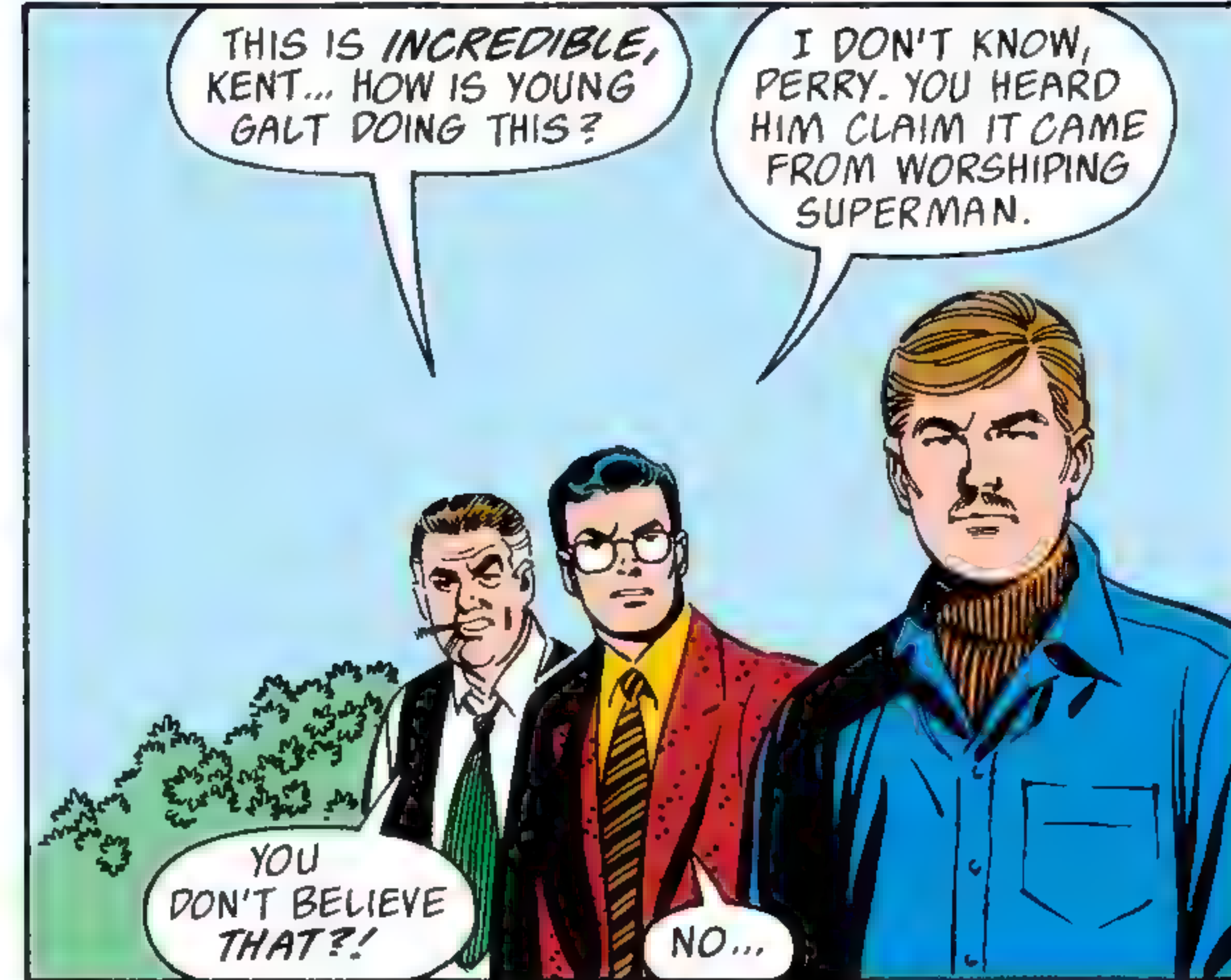
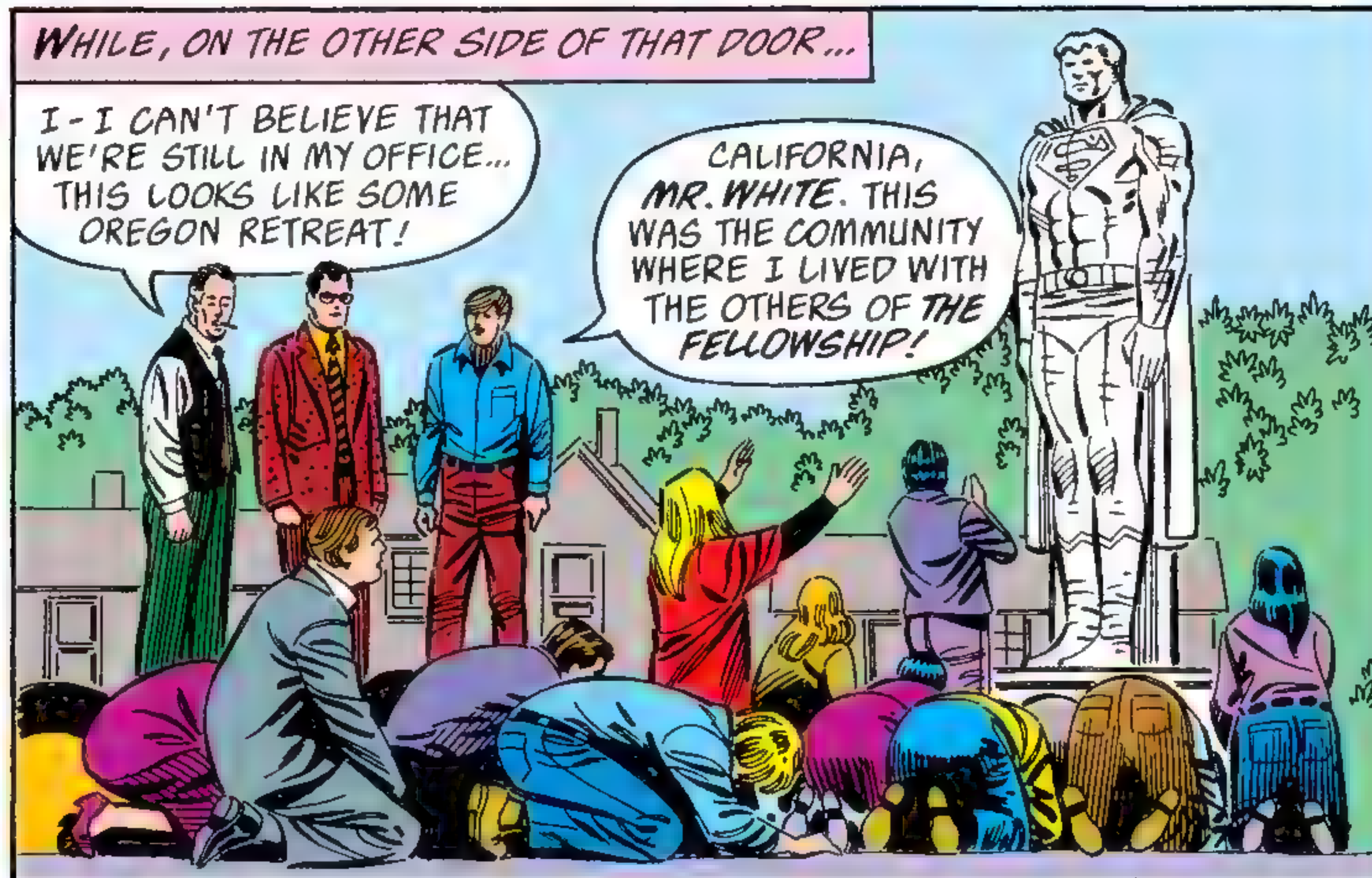
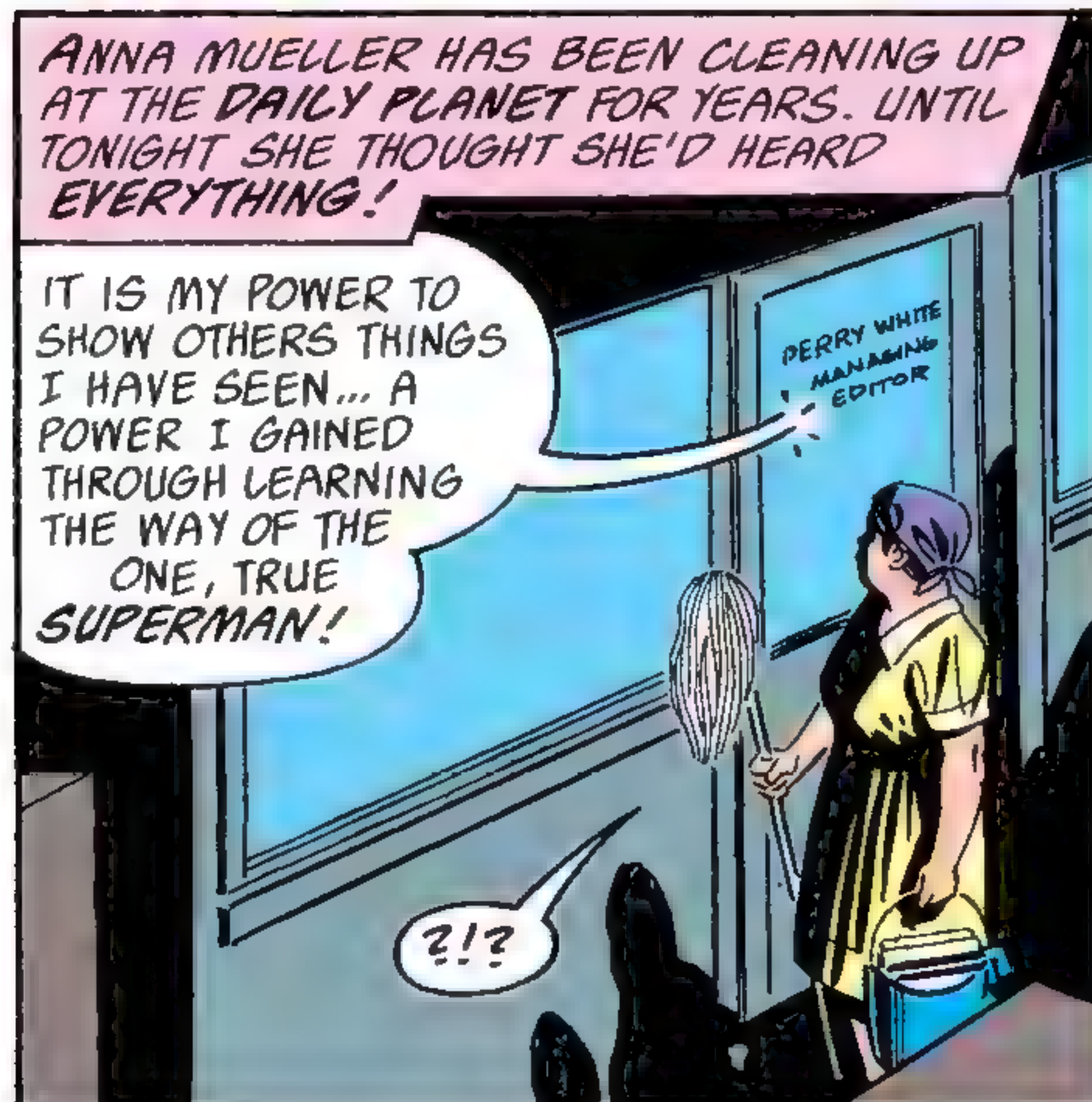
SUPERMAN[®]

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JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER

...BEYOND

MORTAL MEN!

ROGER STERN - SCRIPT
CURT SWAN - PENCILER
JOHN BEATTY - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!

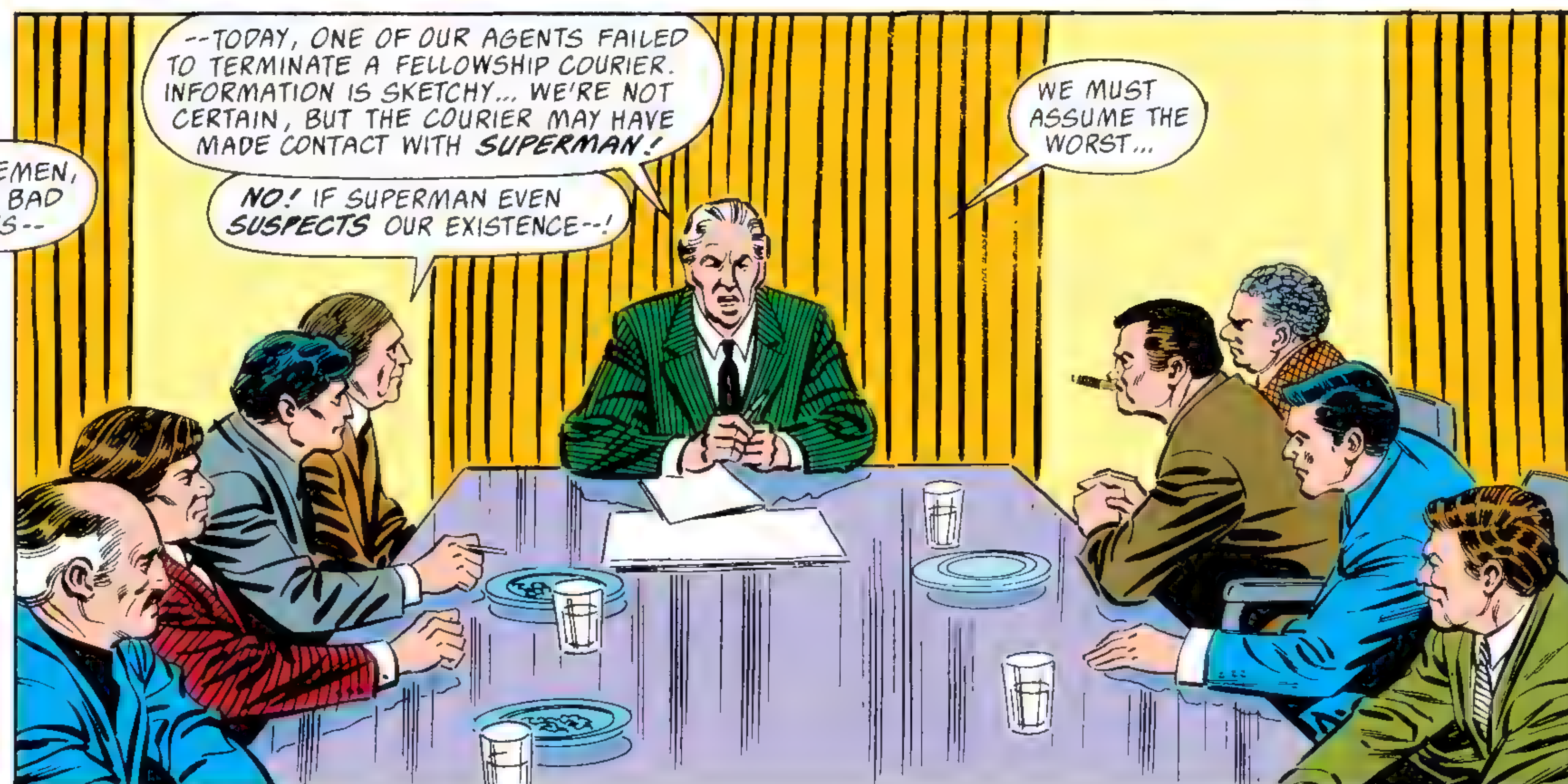
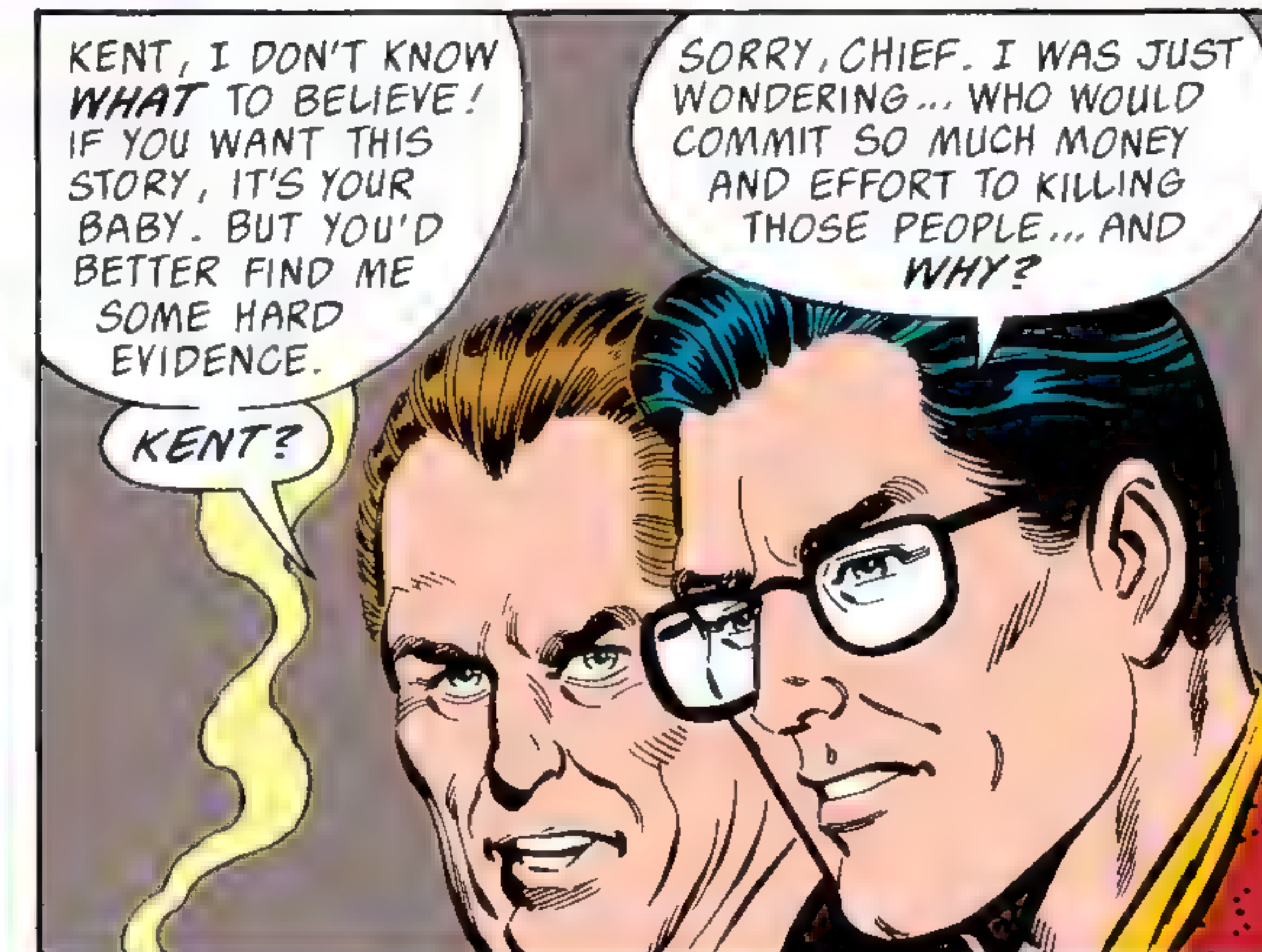
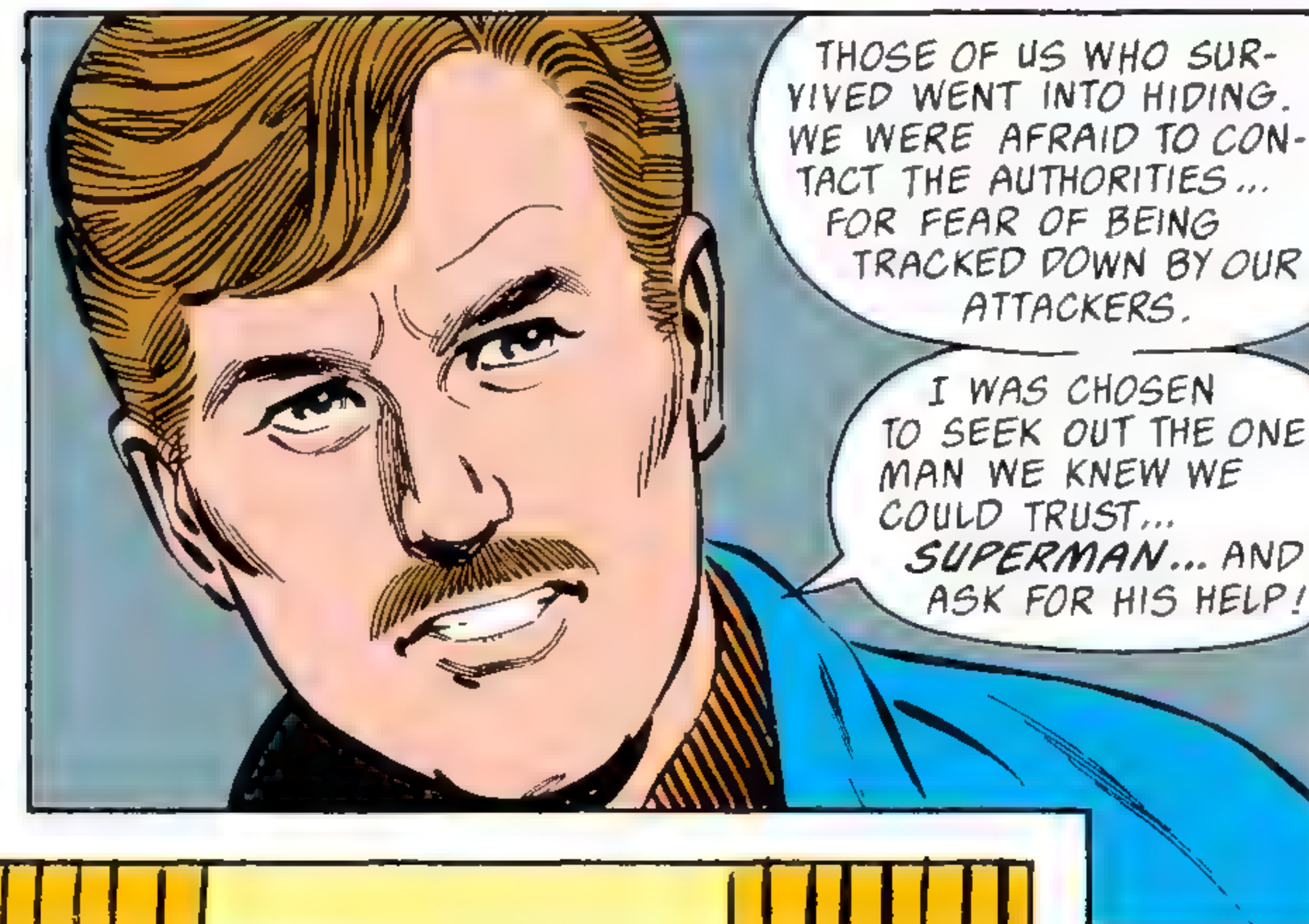
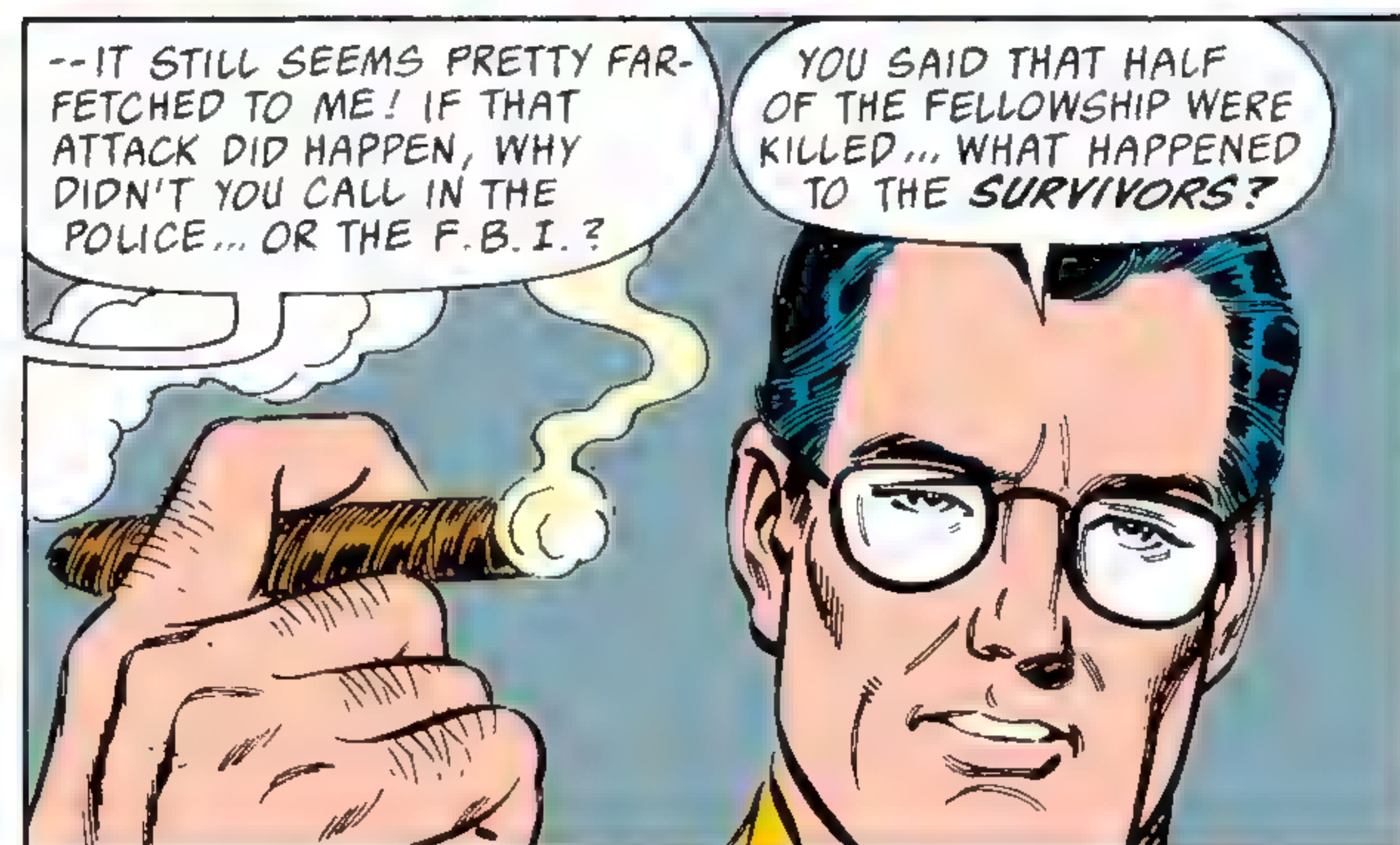
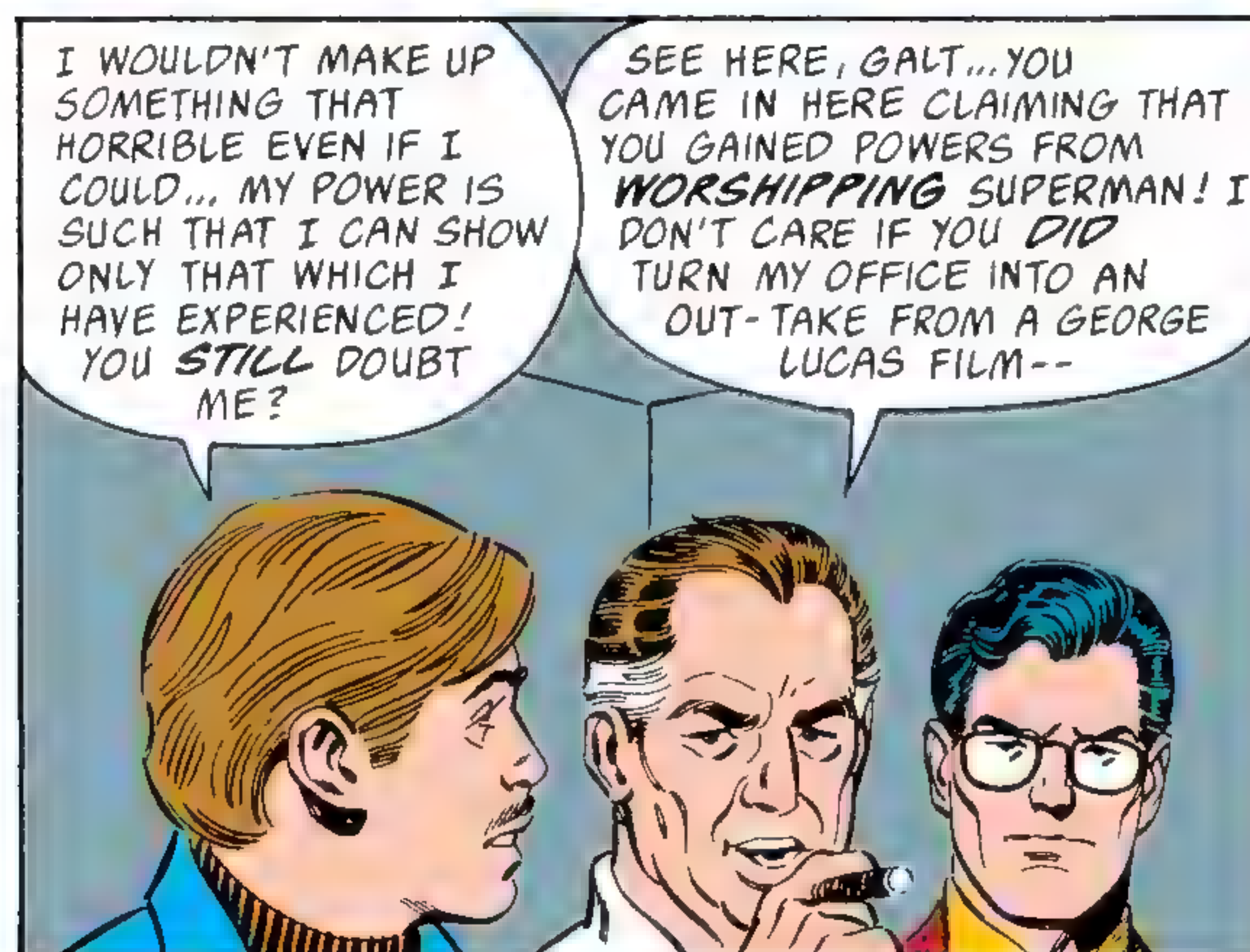
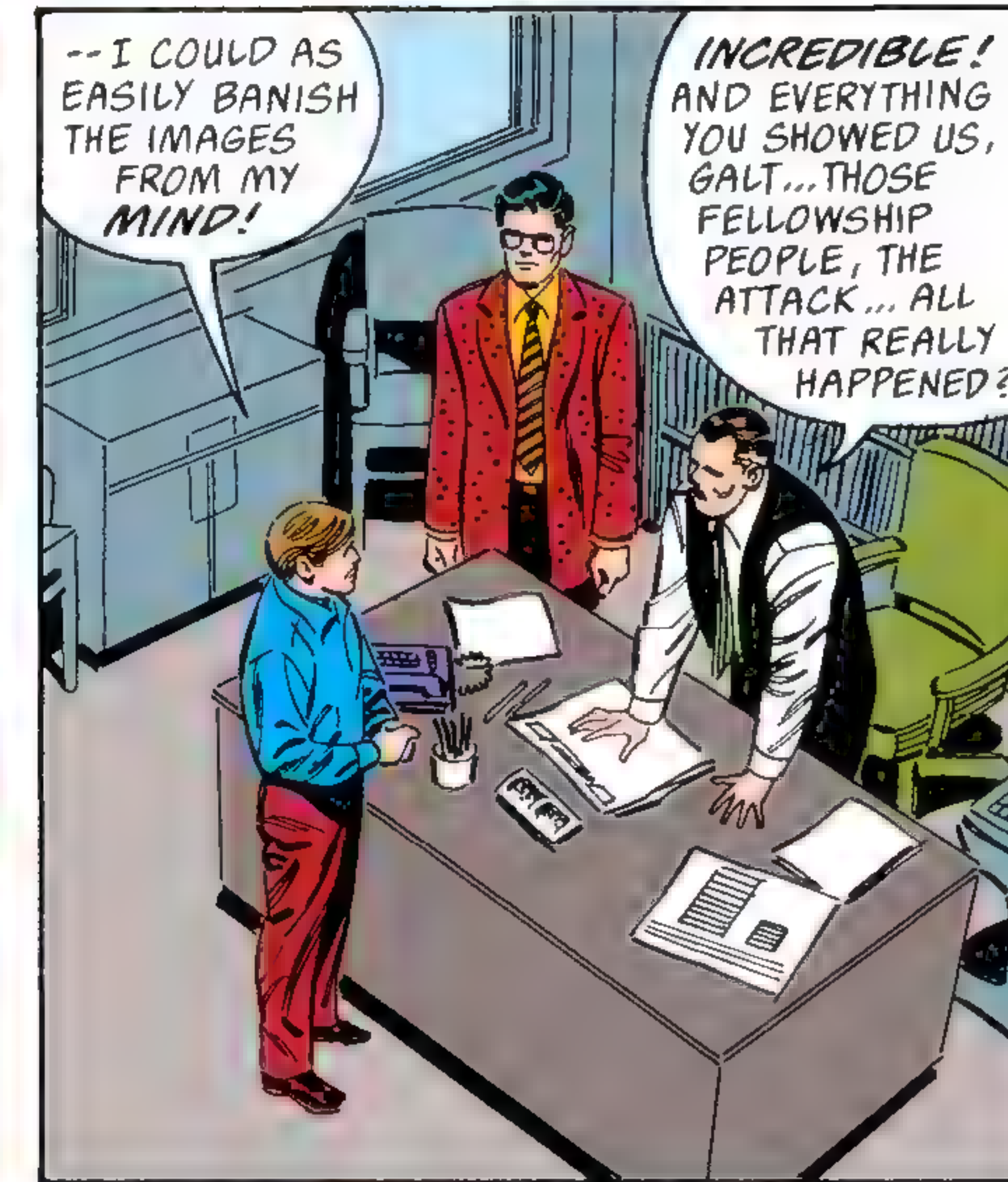
SUPERMAN

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JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER

"WHERE

LURKS THE EVIL?"

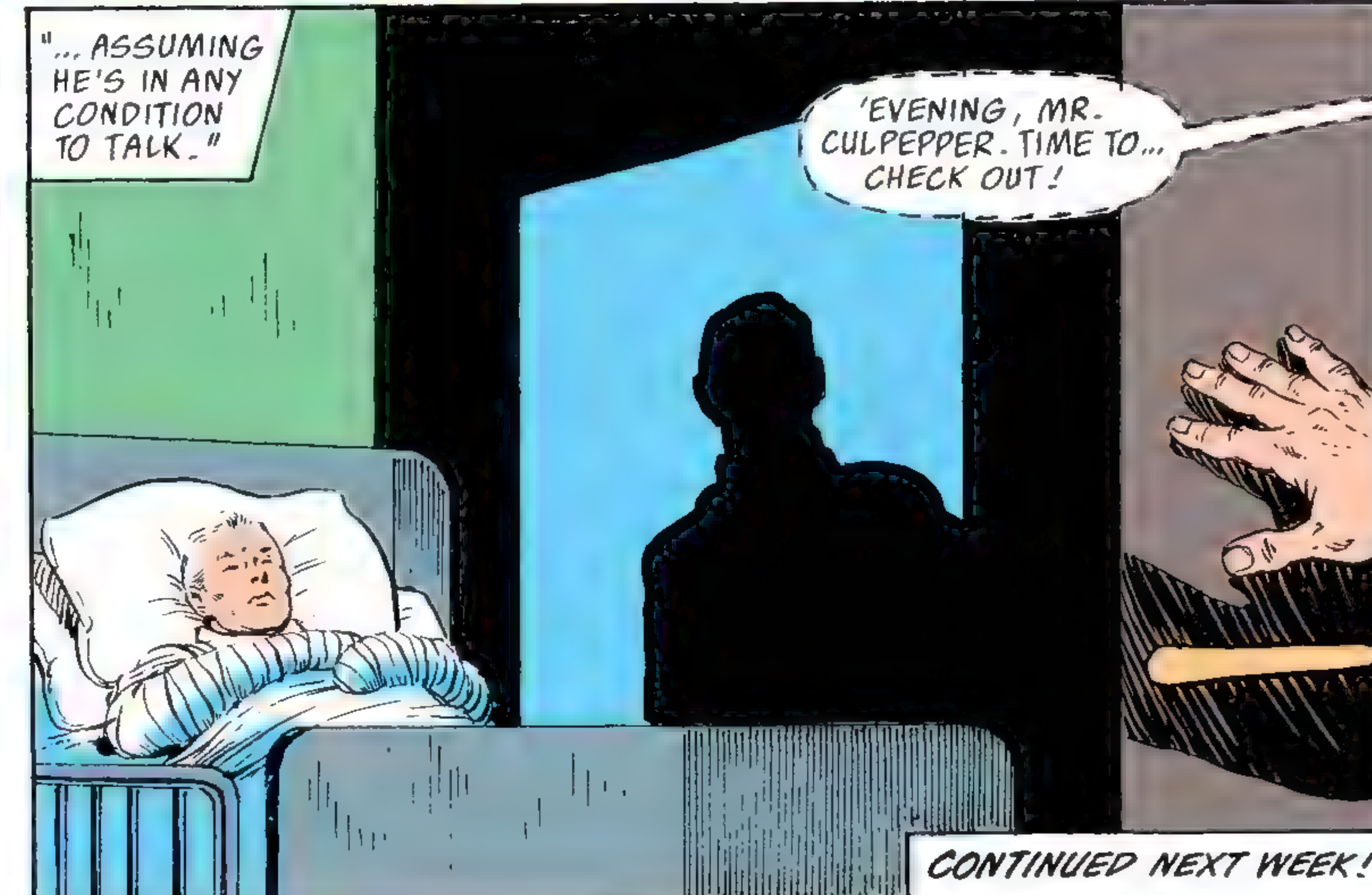
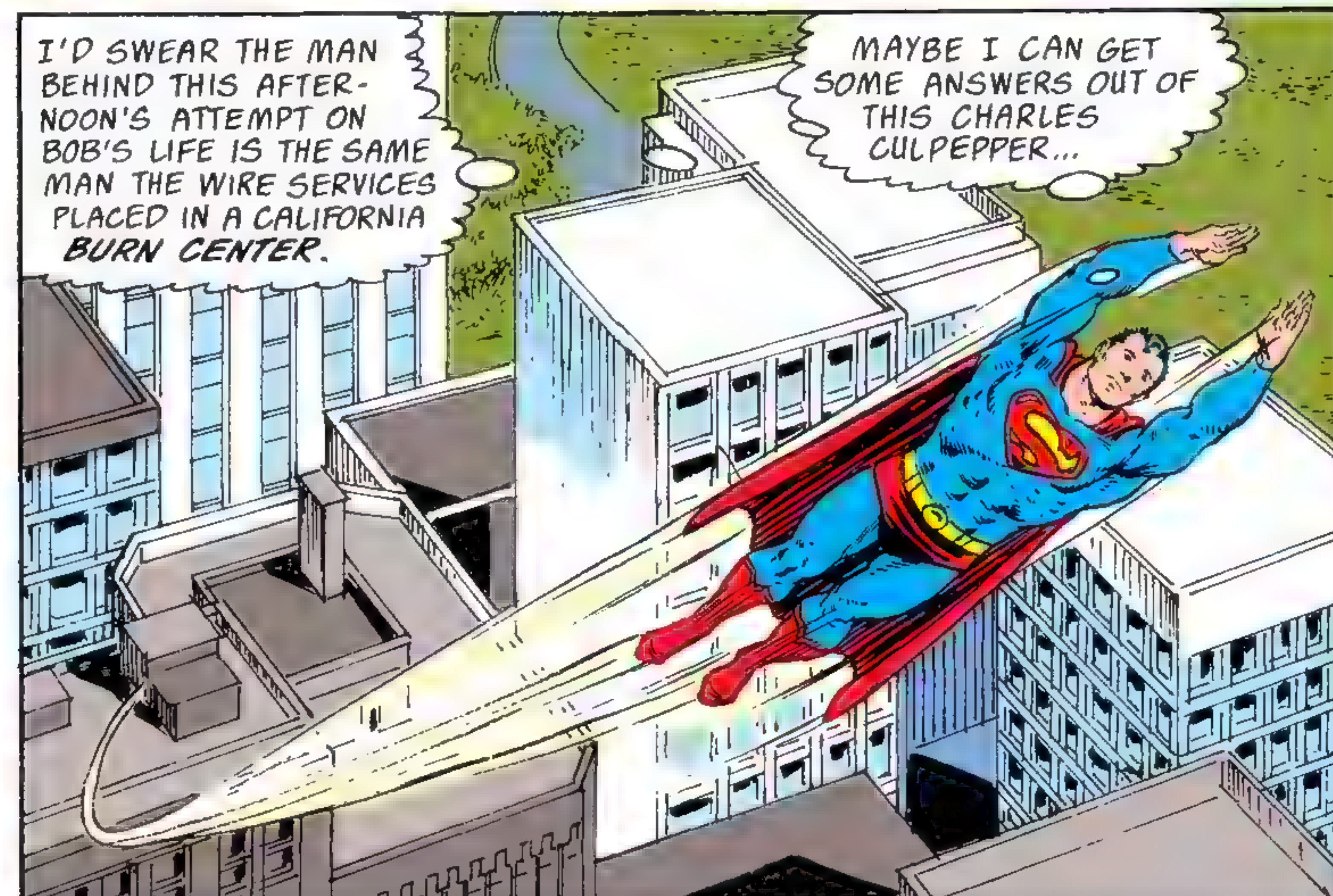
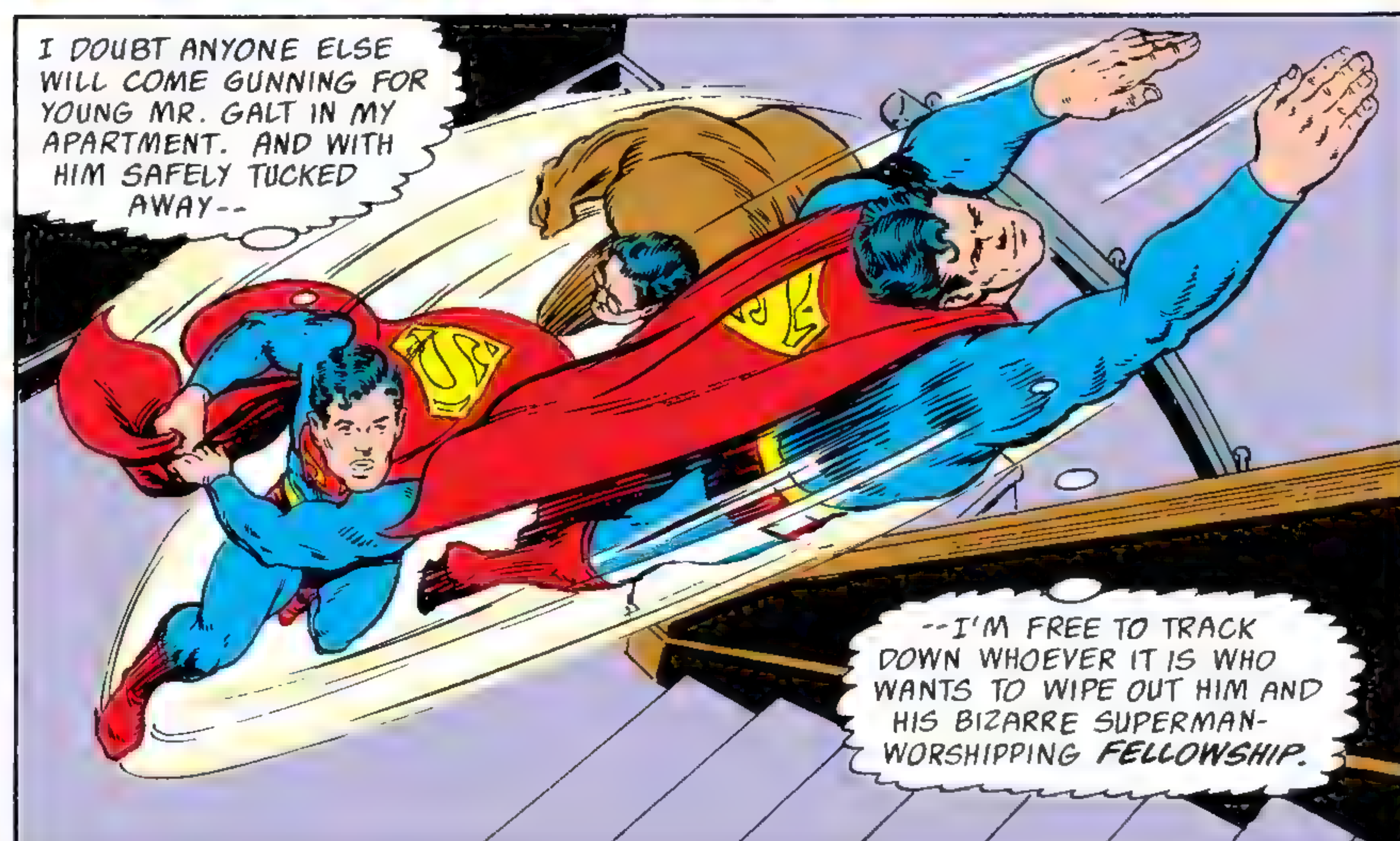
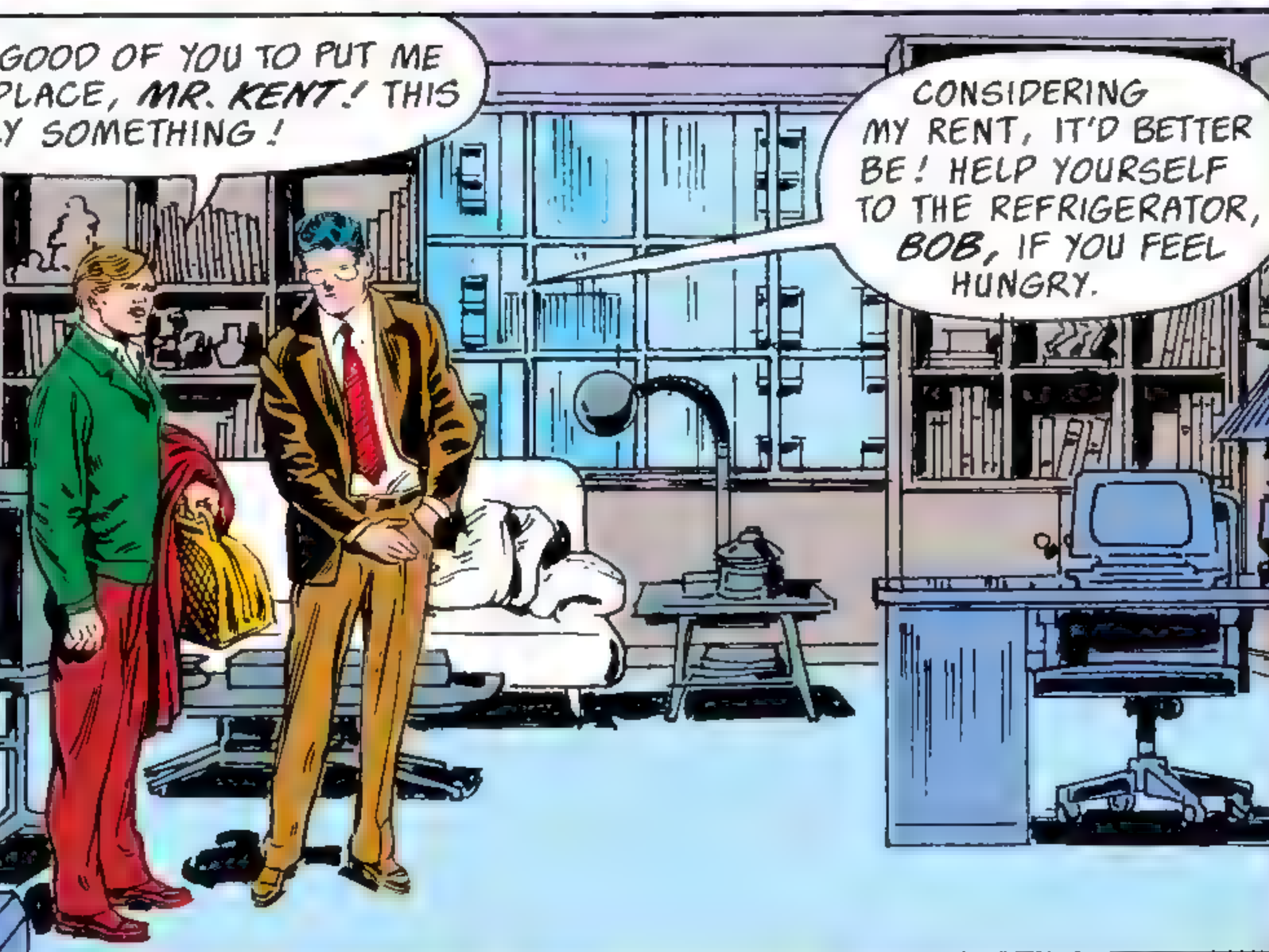
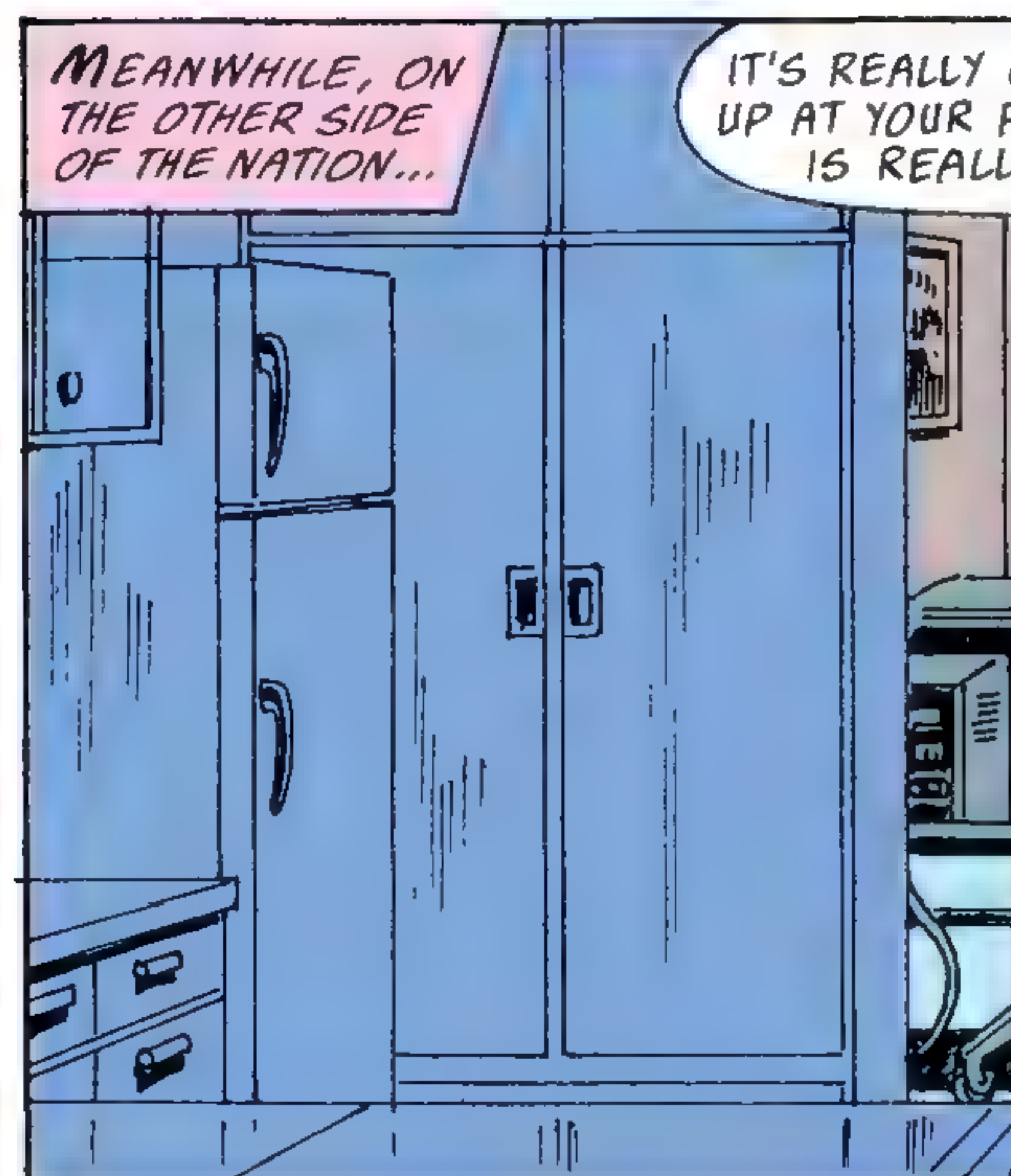
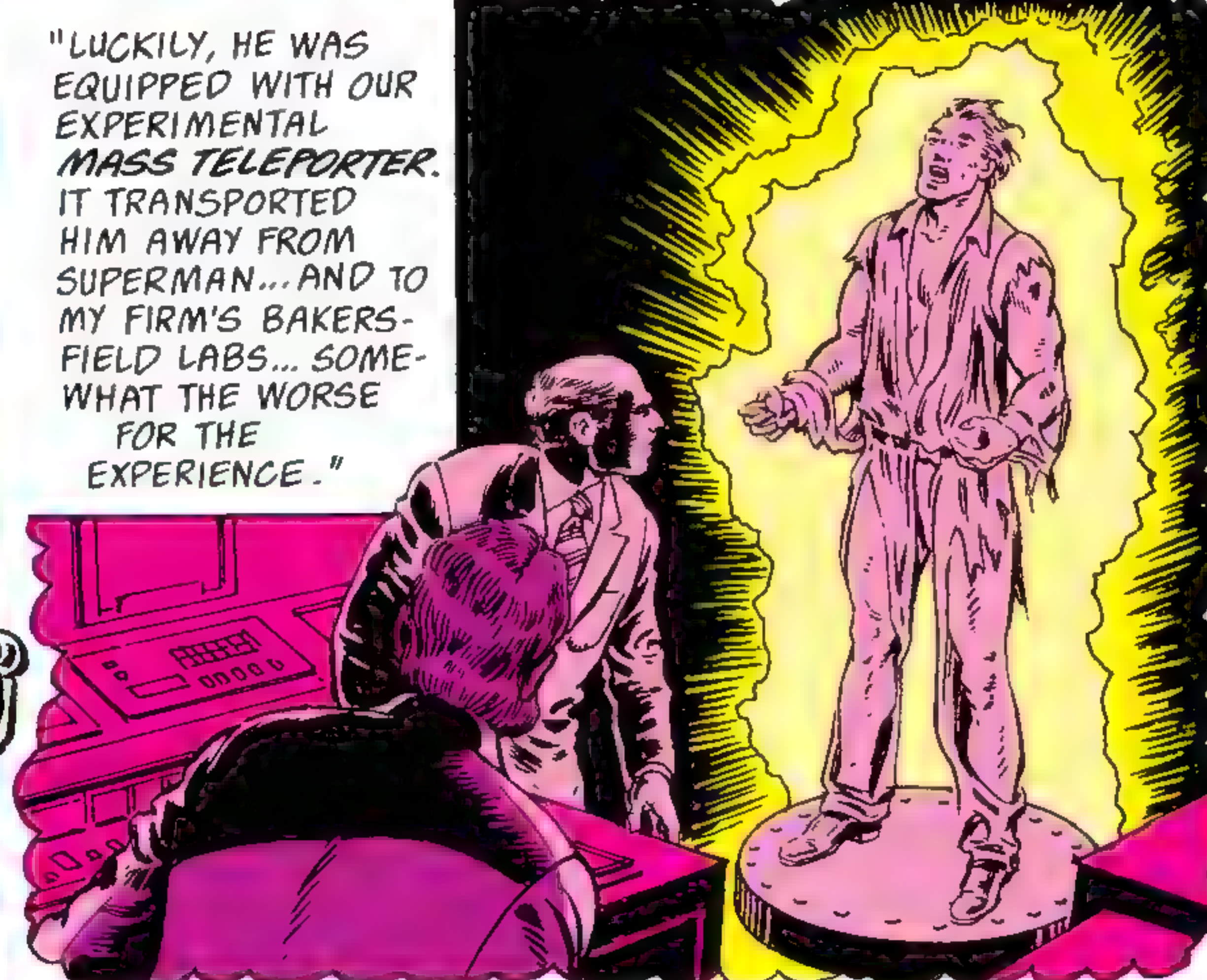
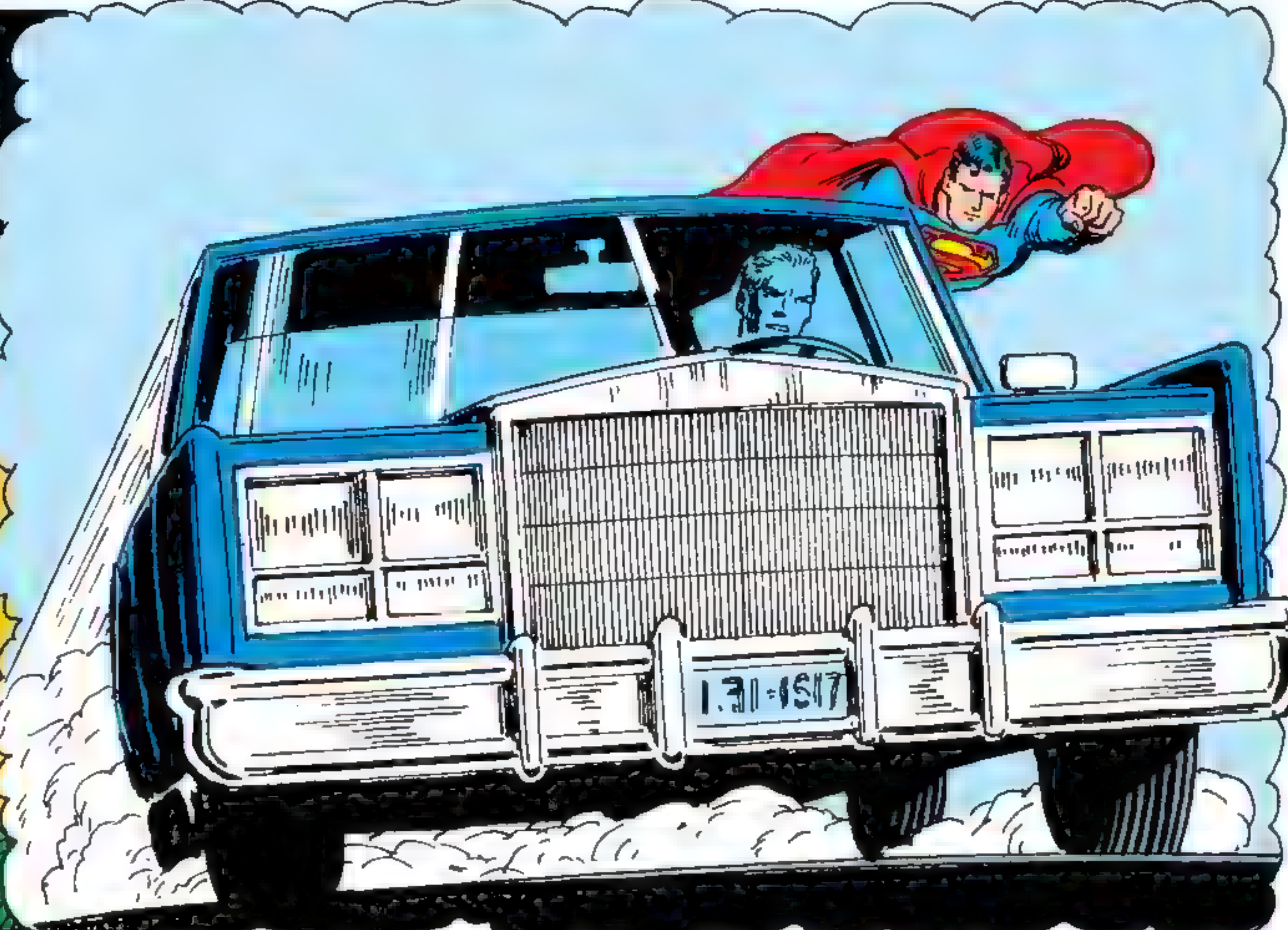
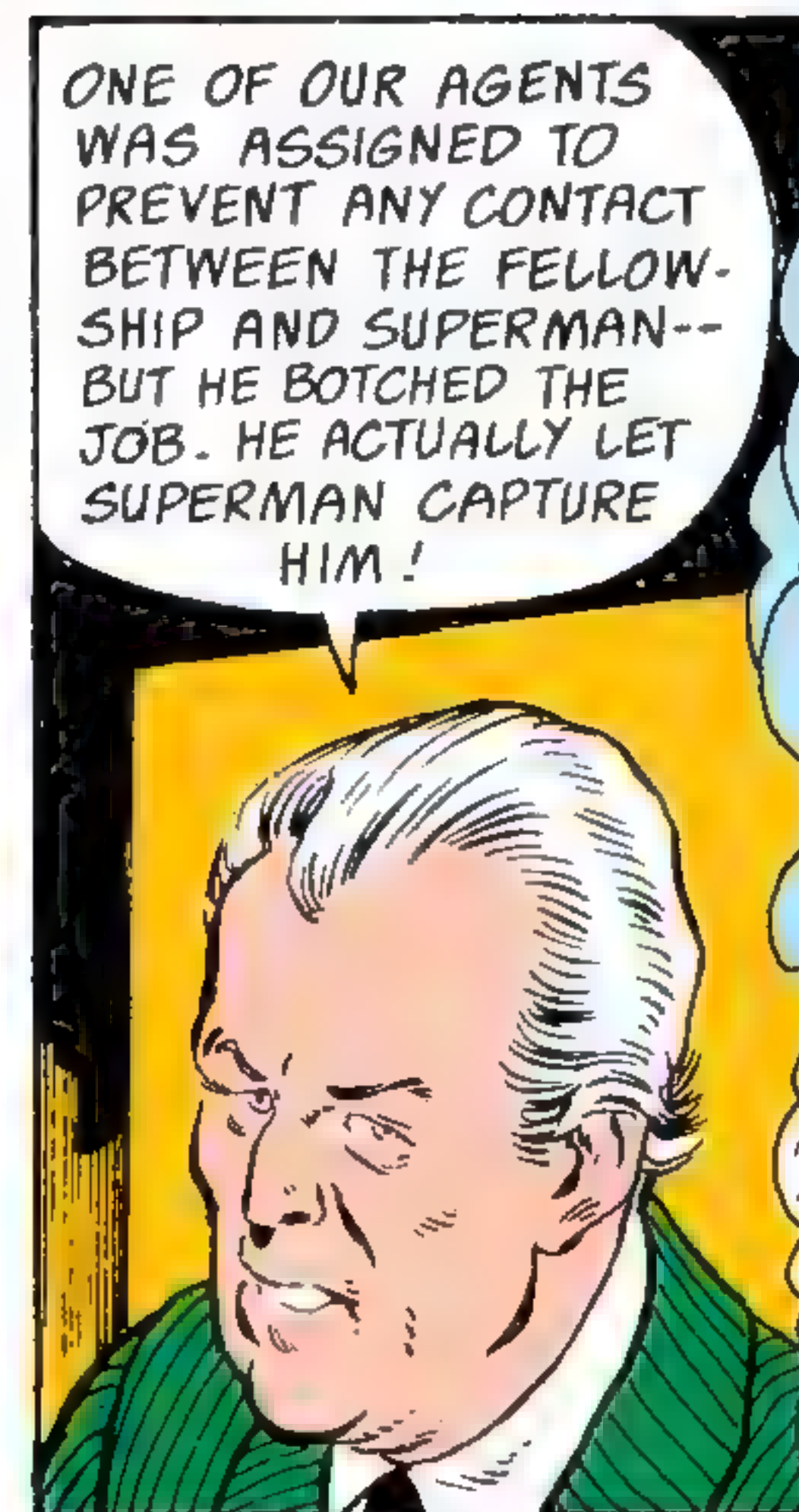
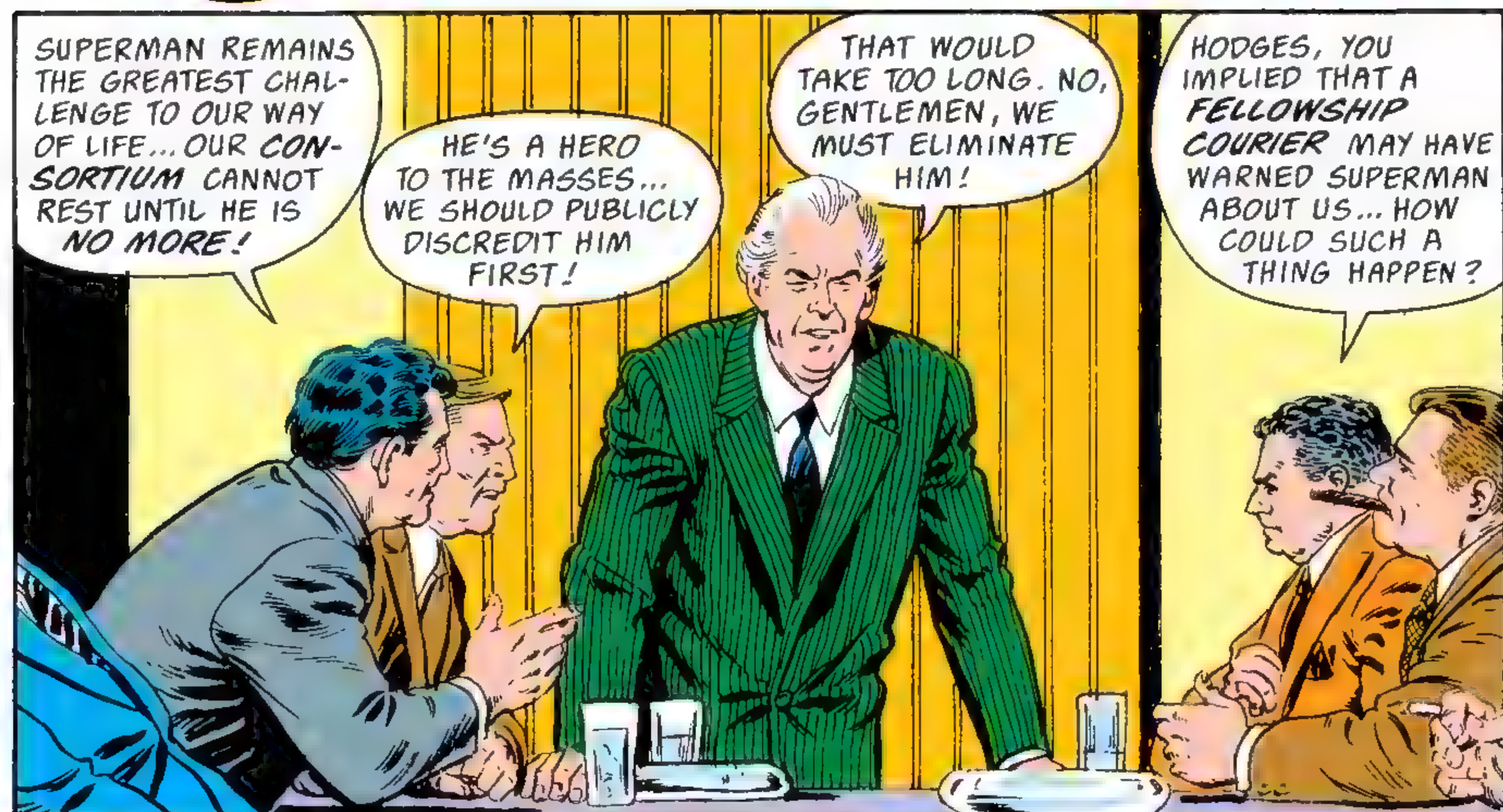
ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
JOHN BEATTY - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



SUPERMAN "WICKED BUSINESS!"

Created by
JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
PETRA SCOTSE - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR

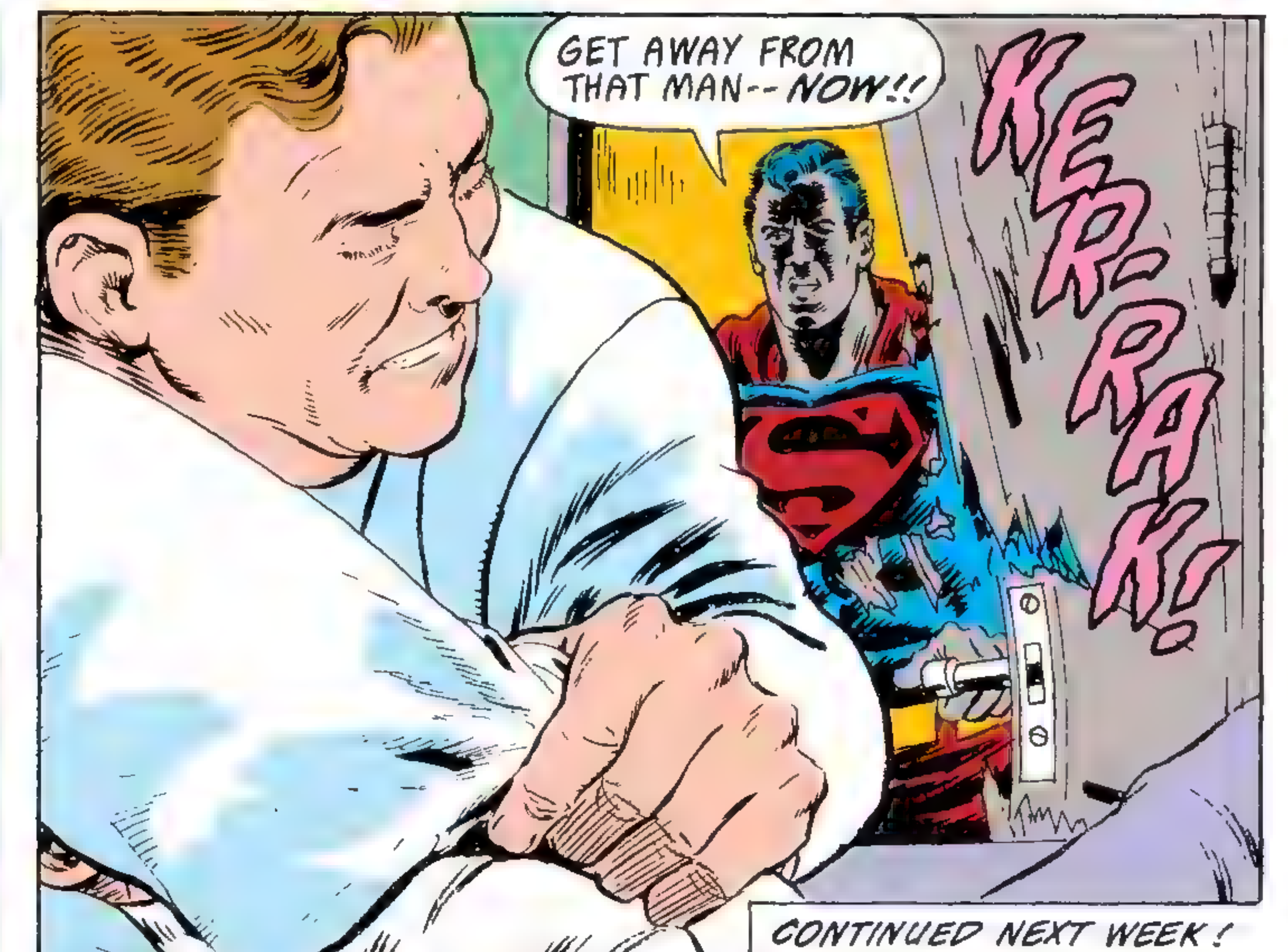
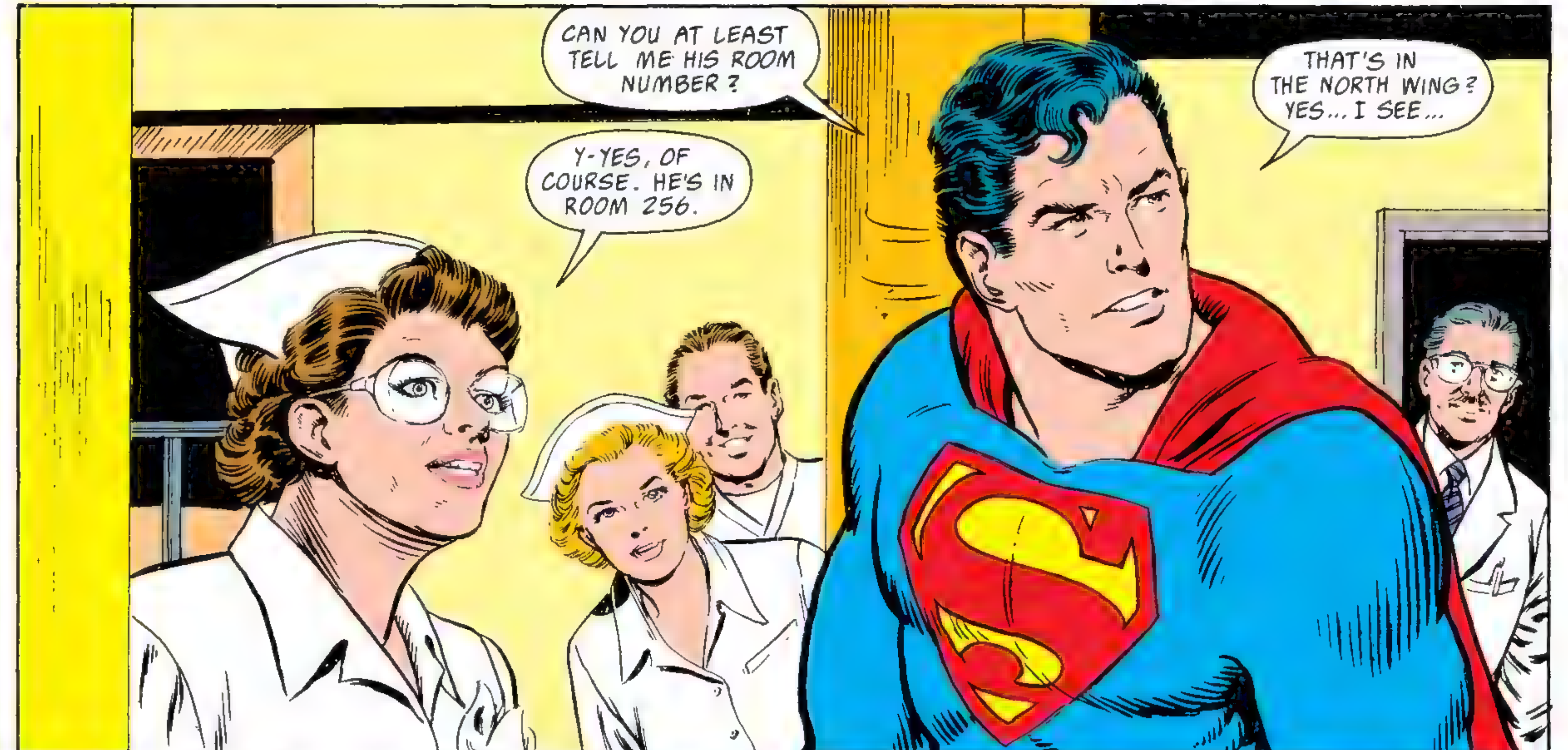
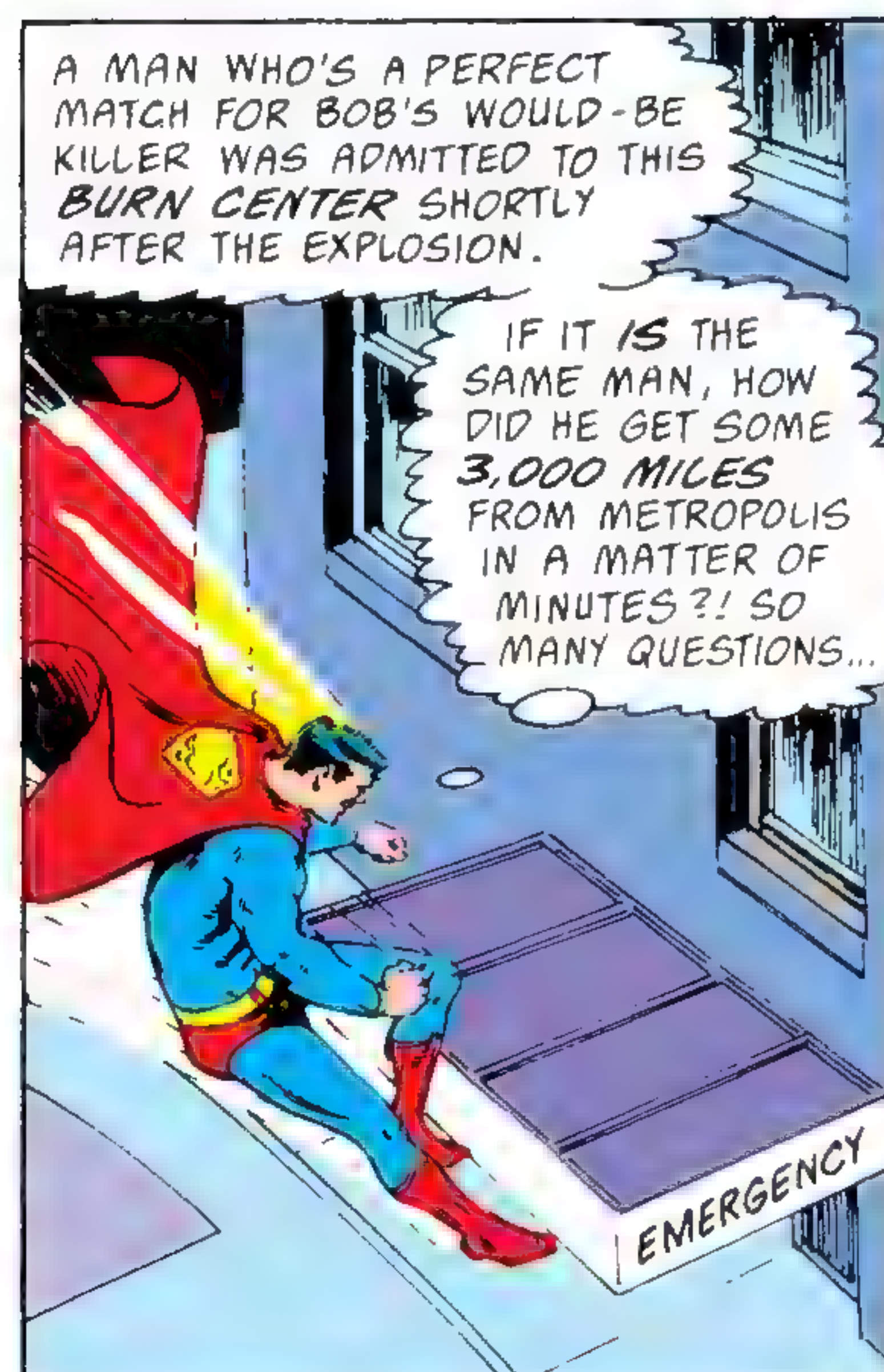
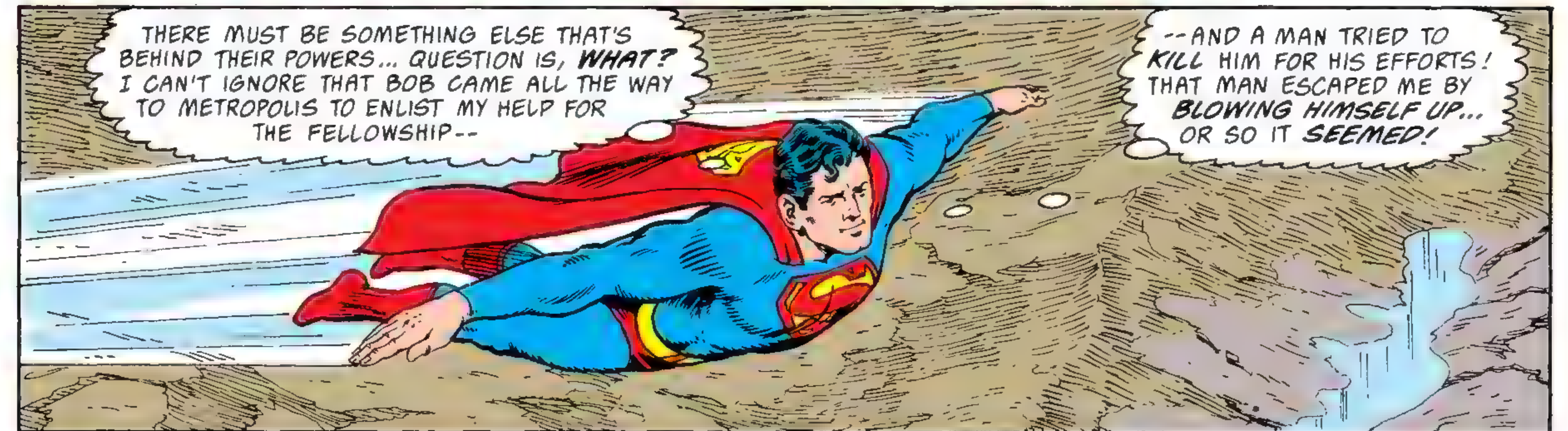
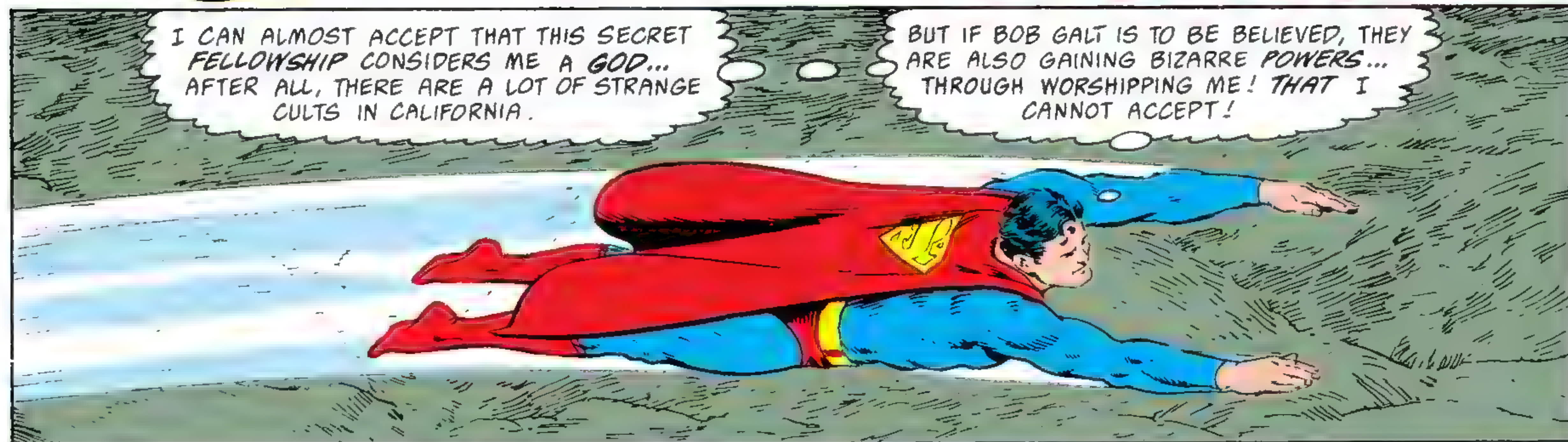


CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!

DEATH

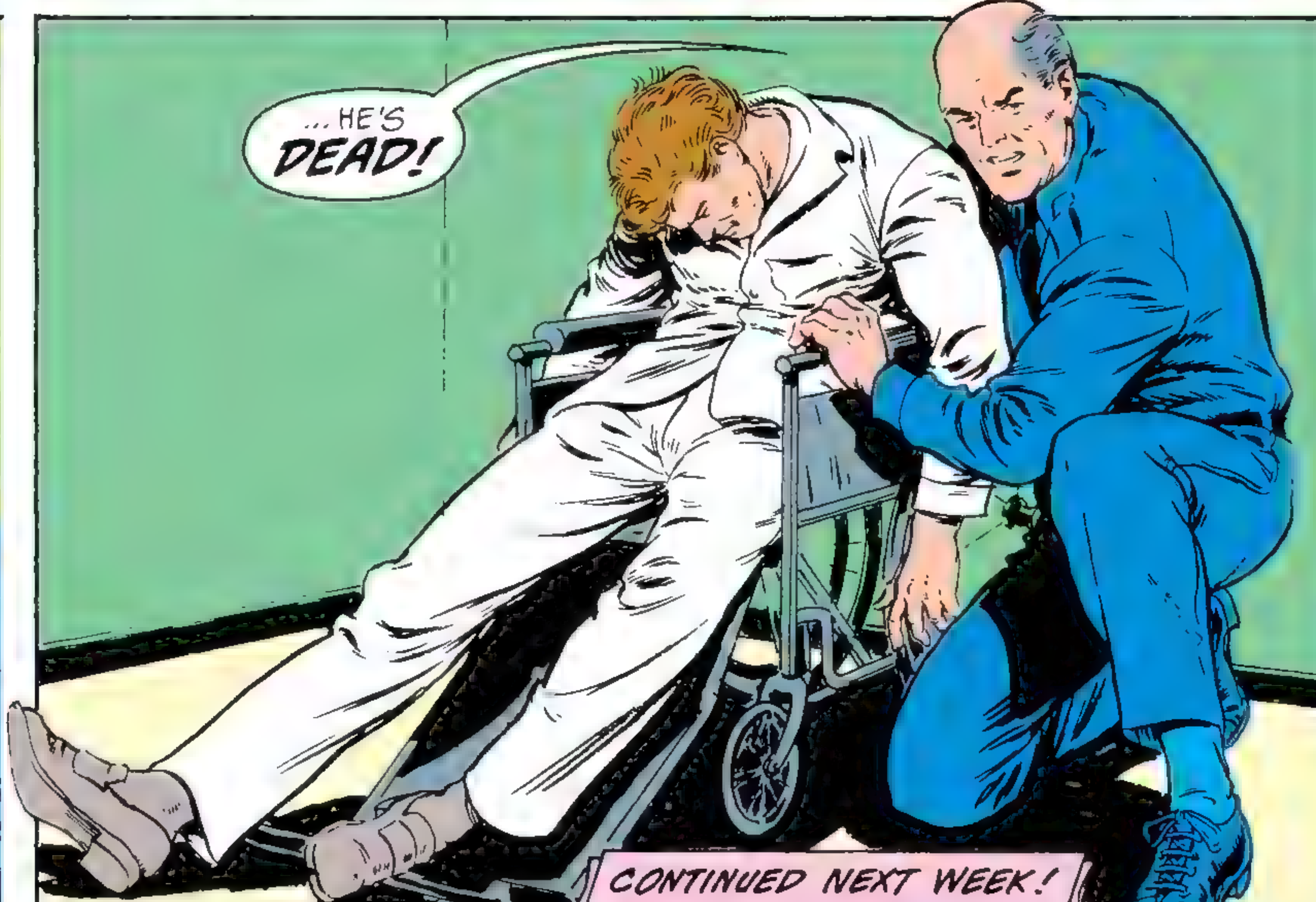
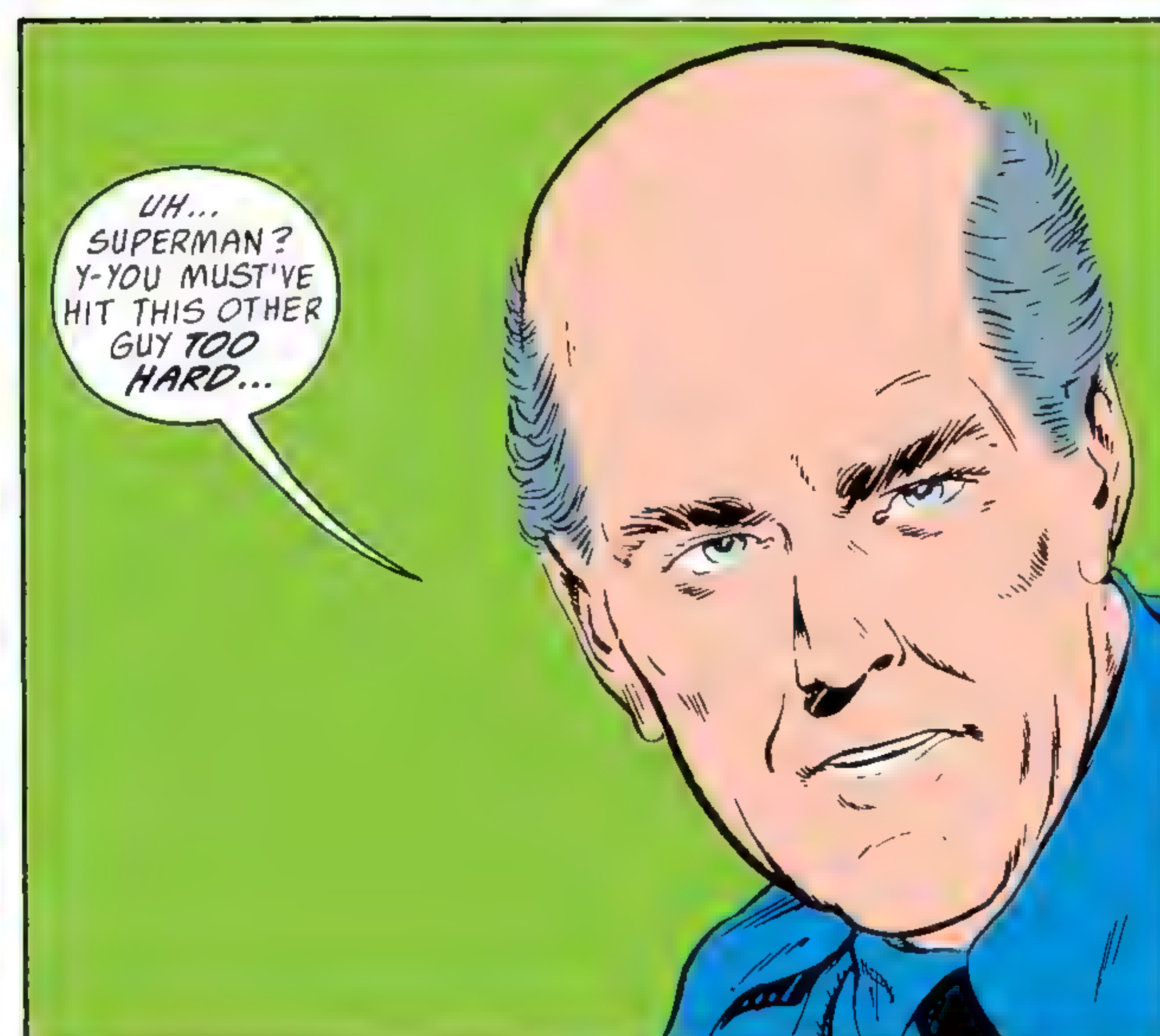
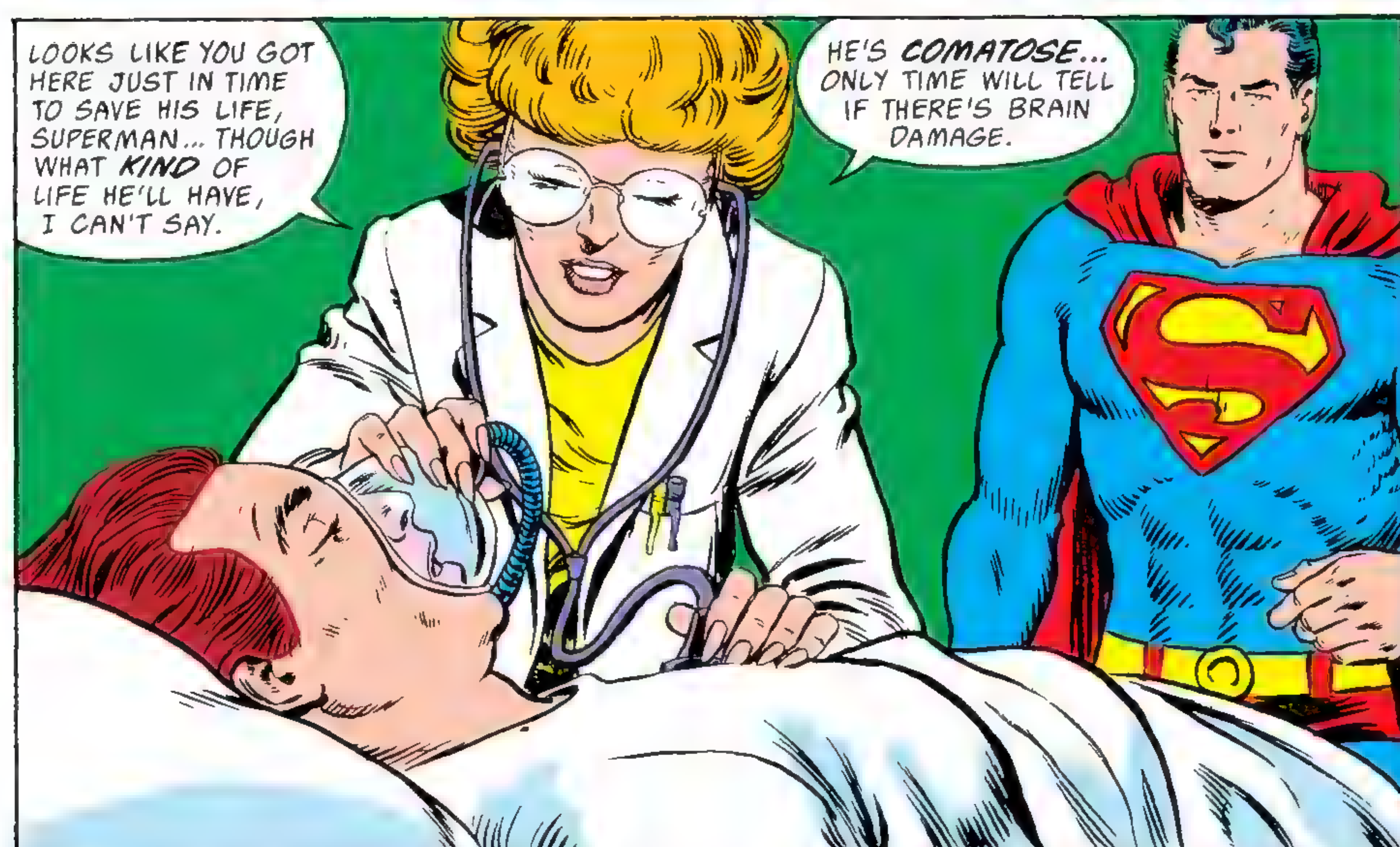
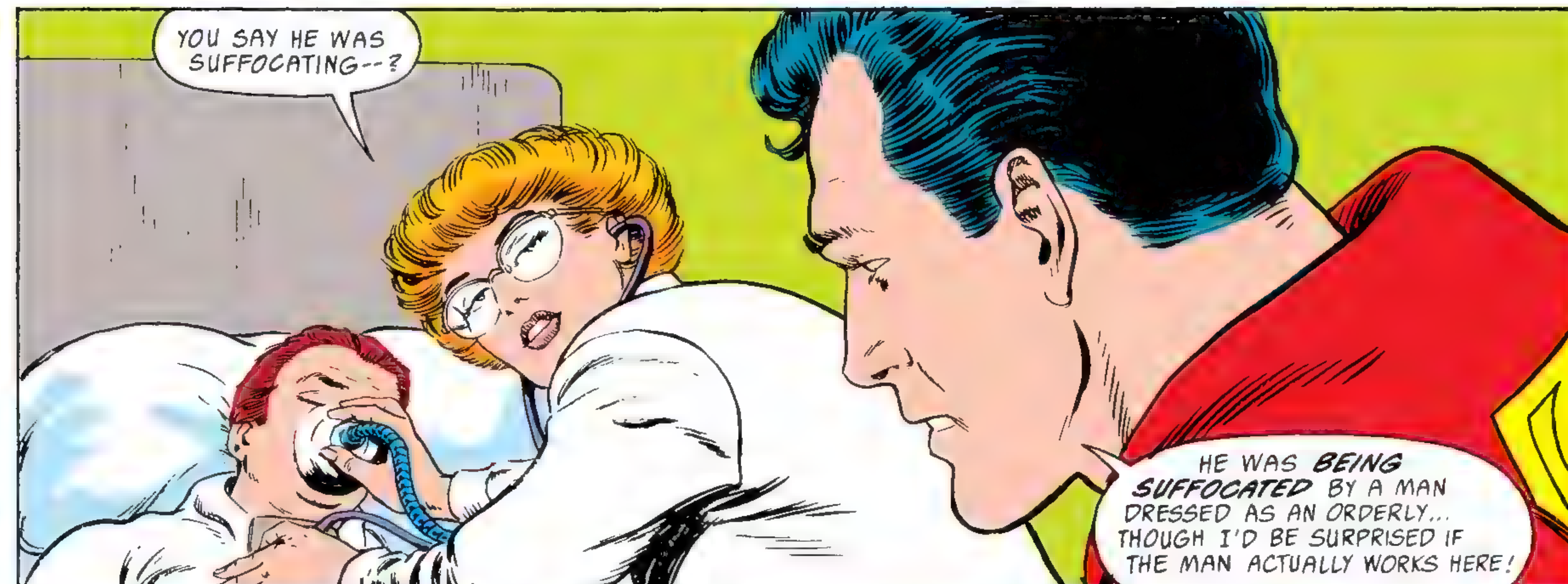
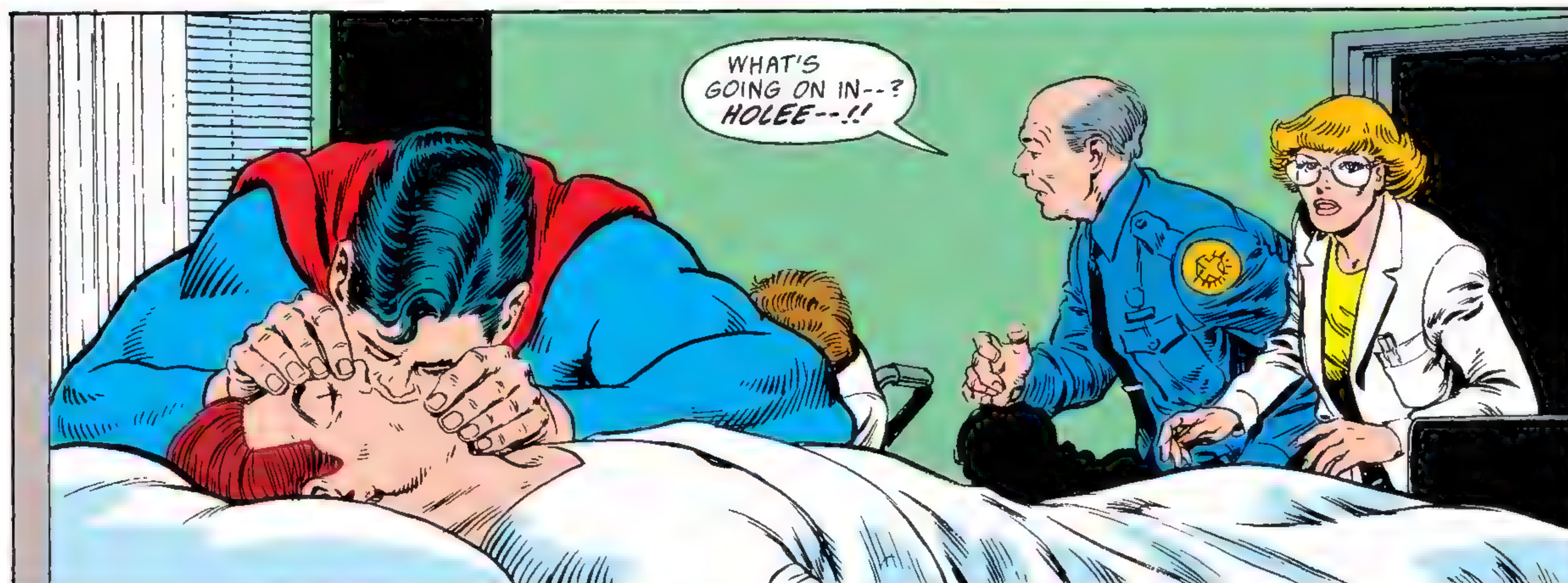
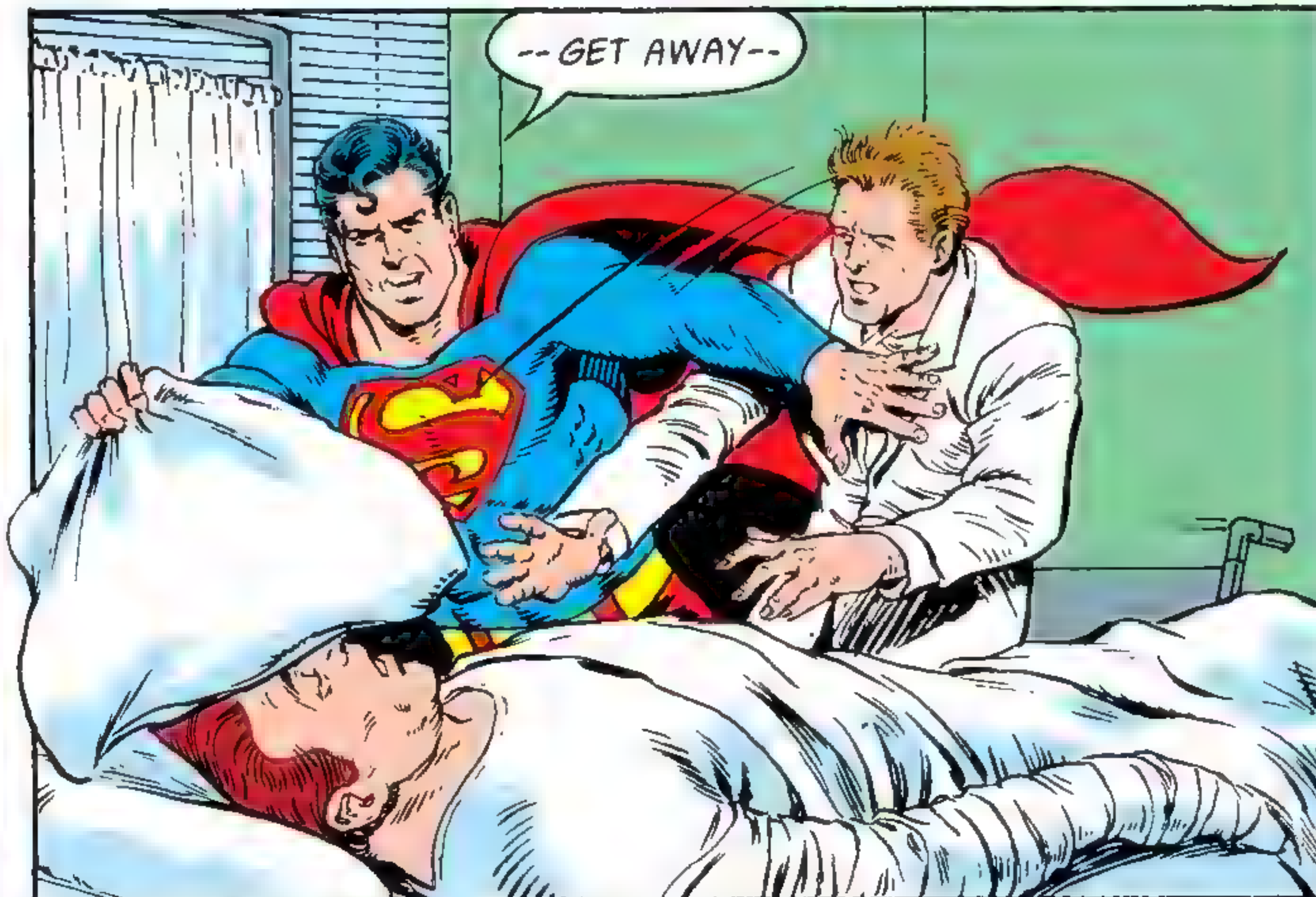
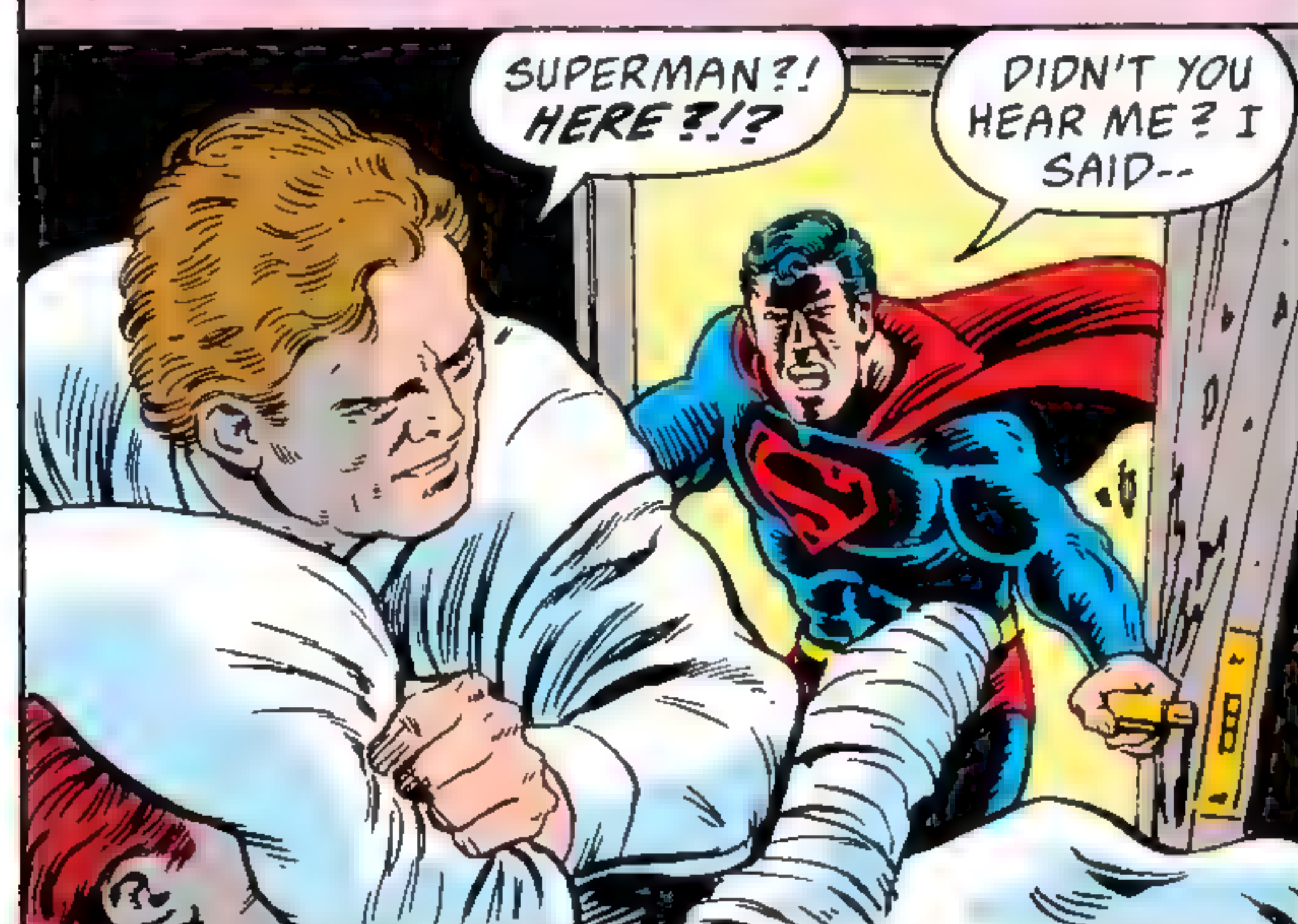
COMES CALLING...

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR

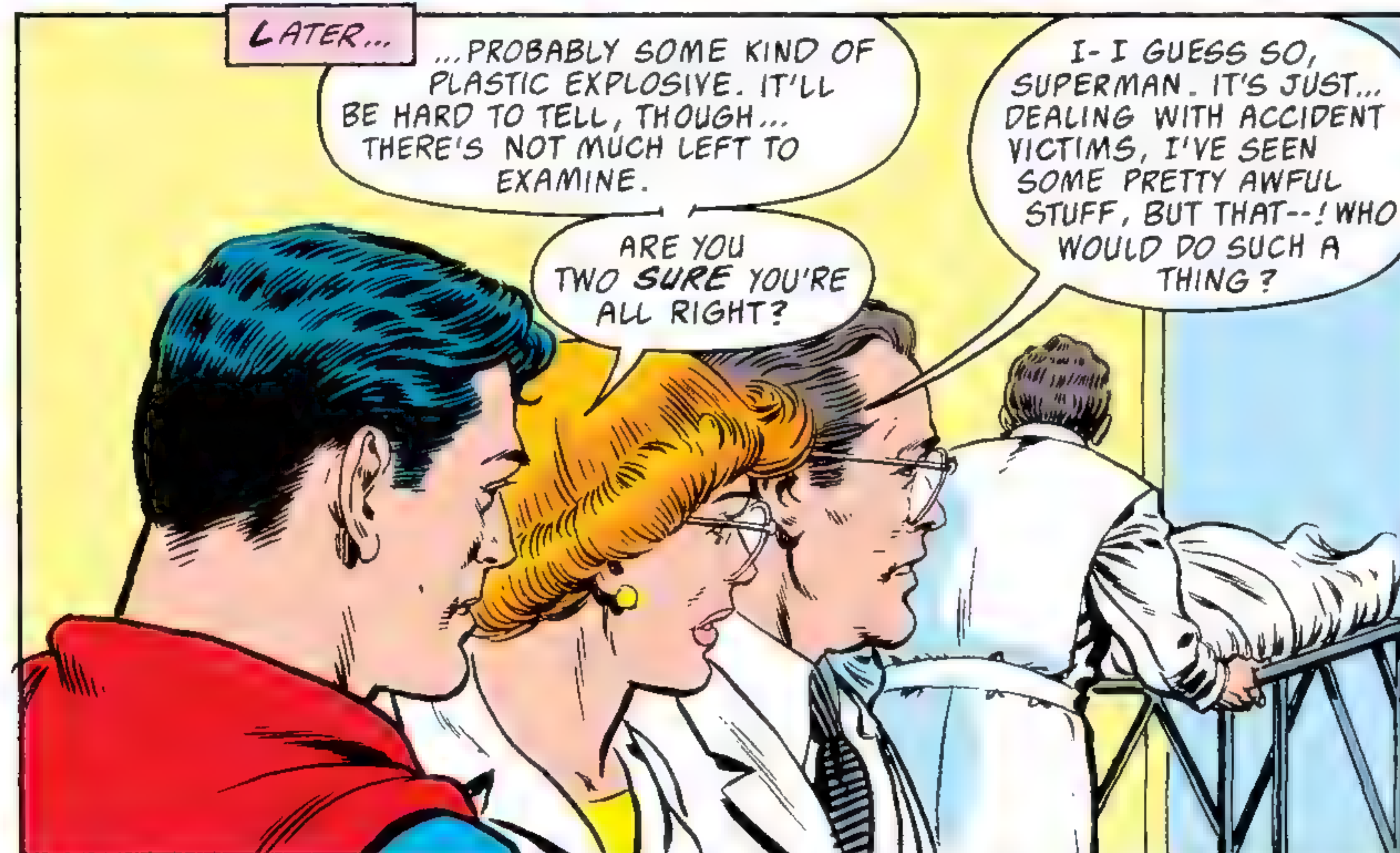
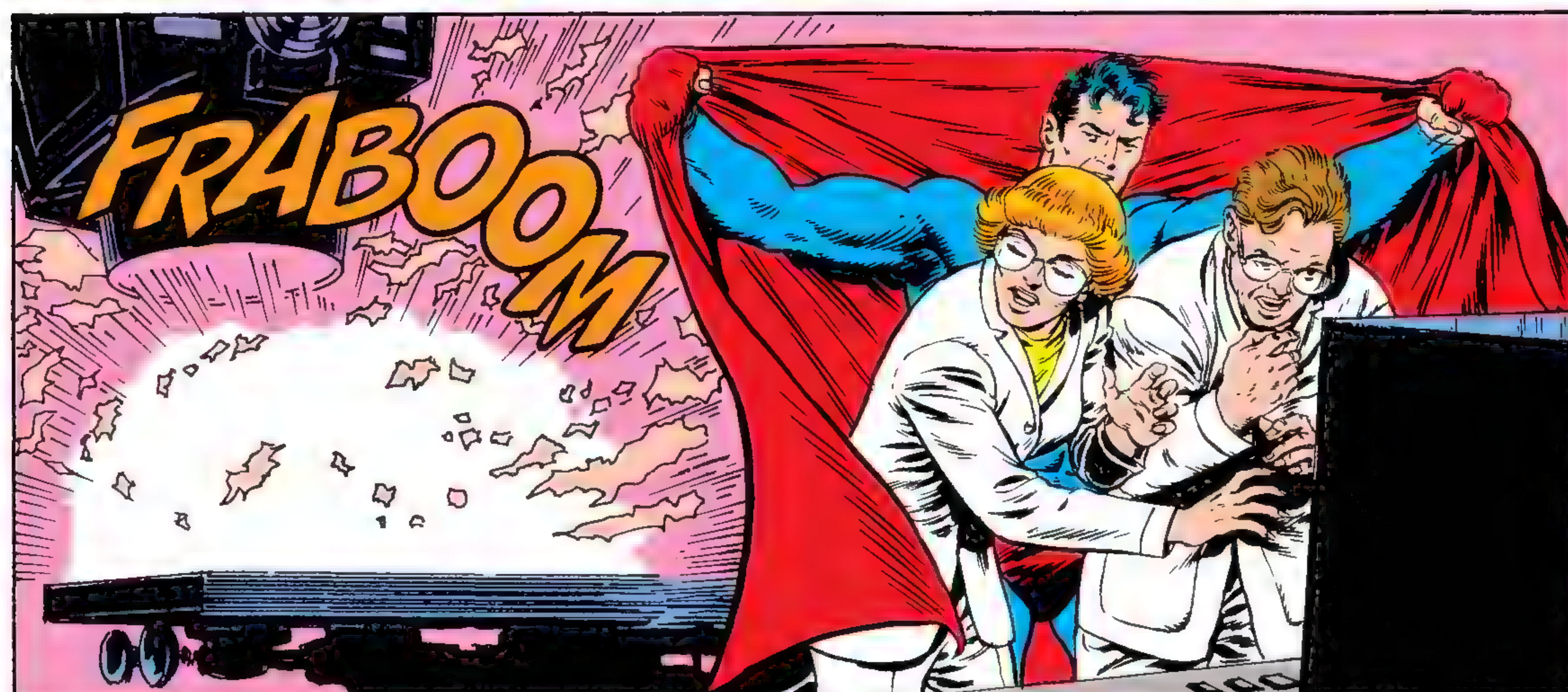
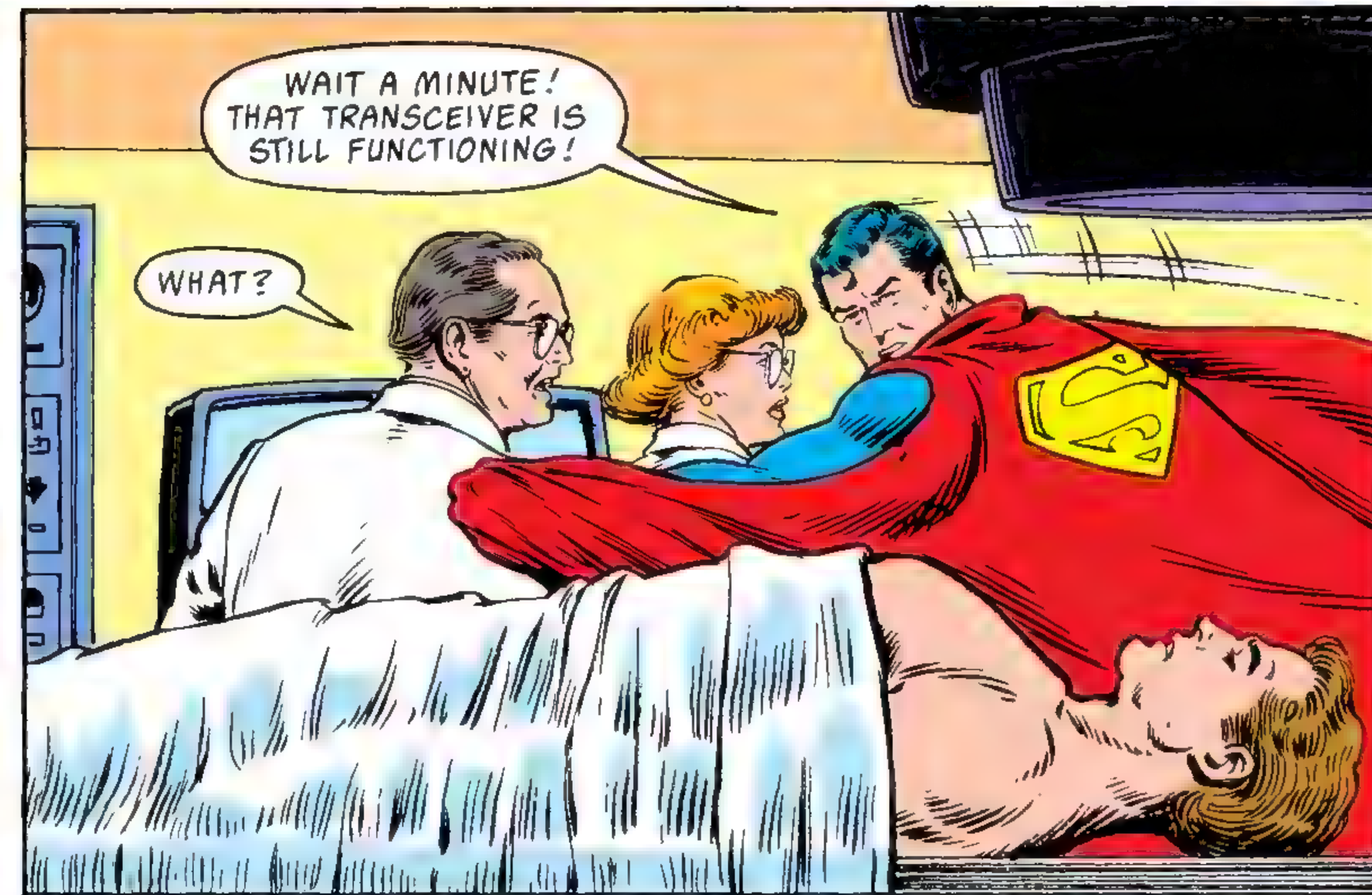
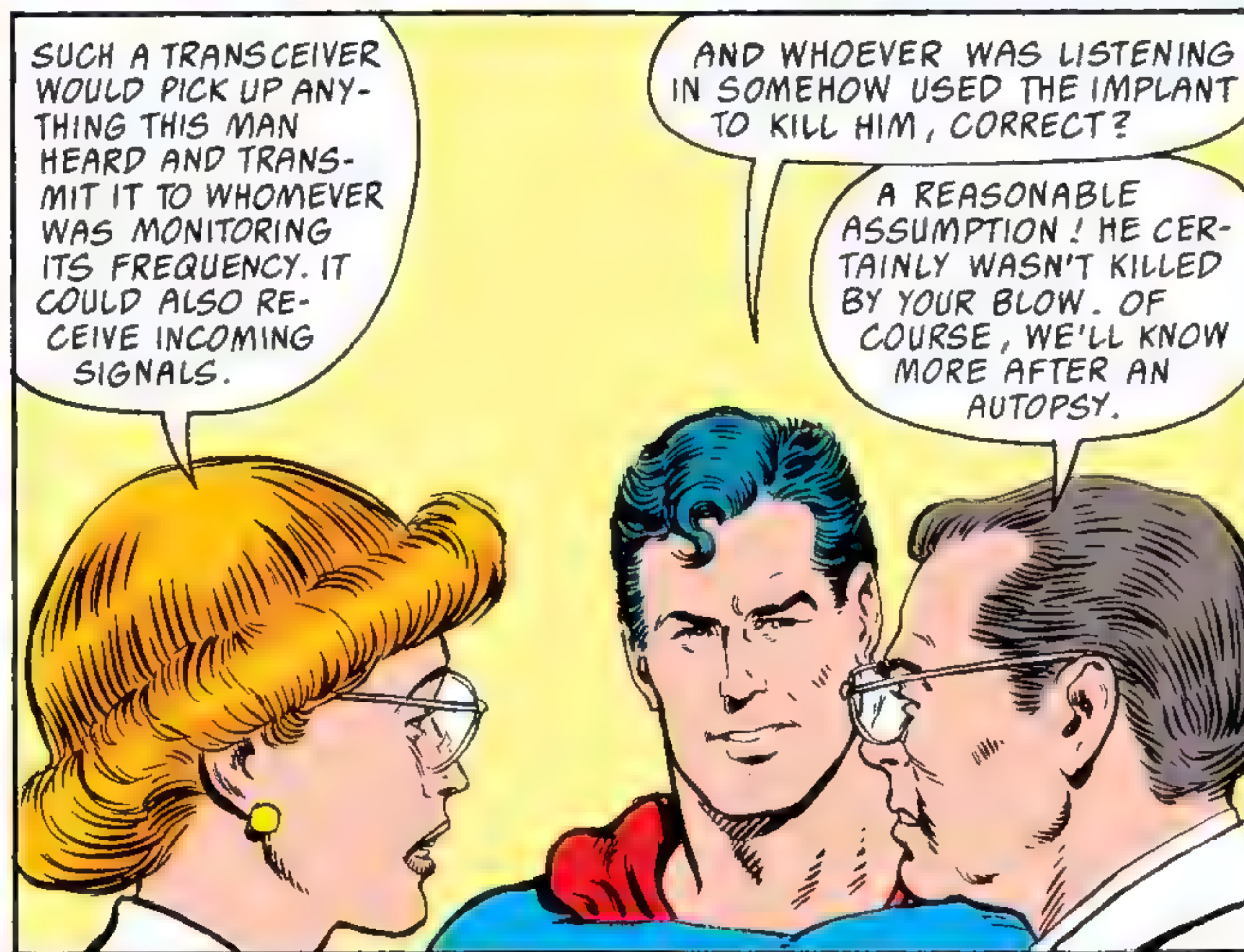
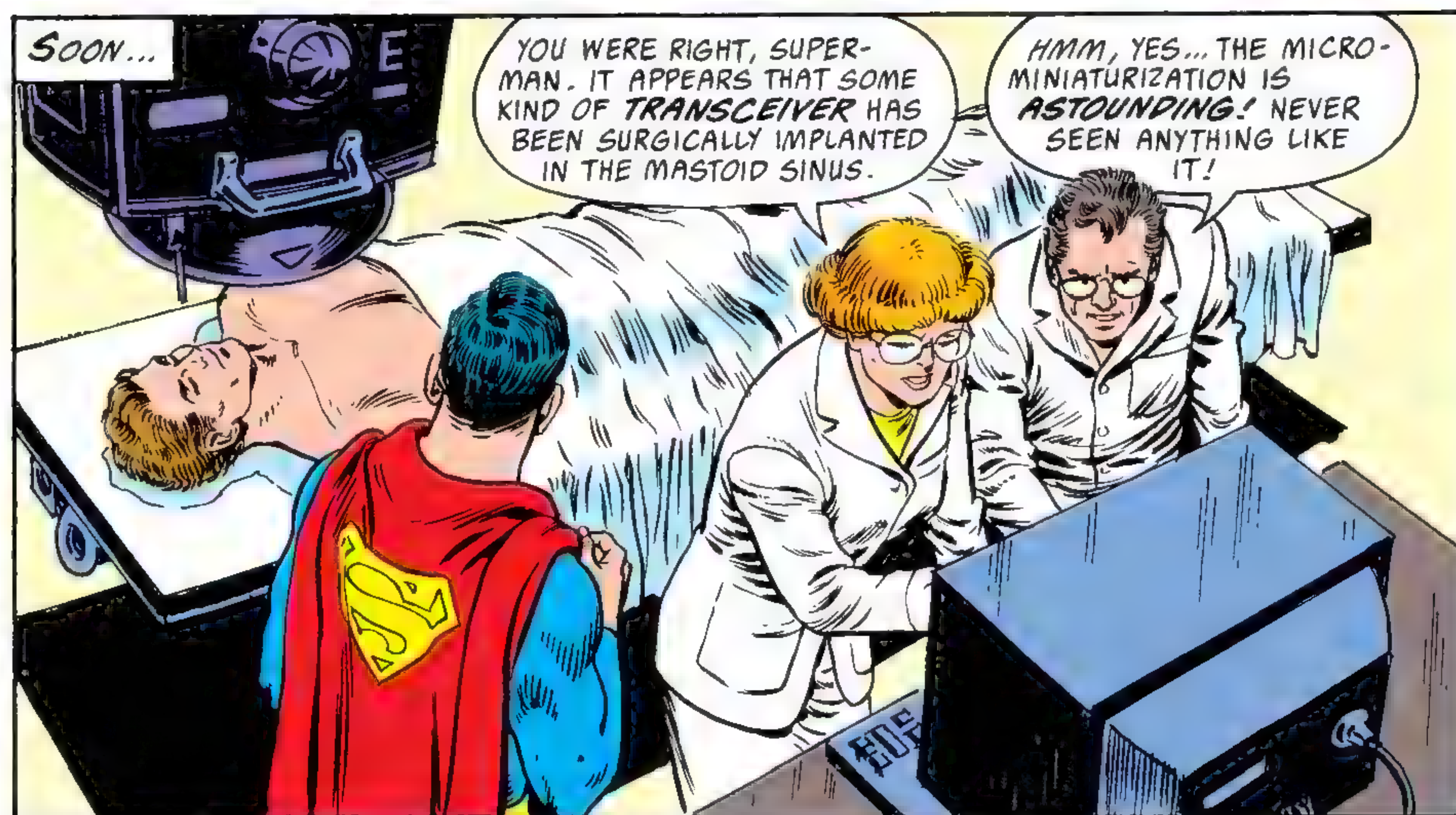
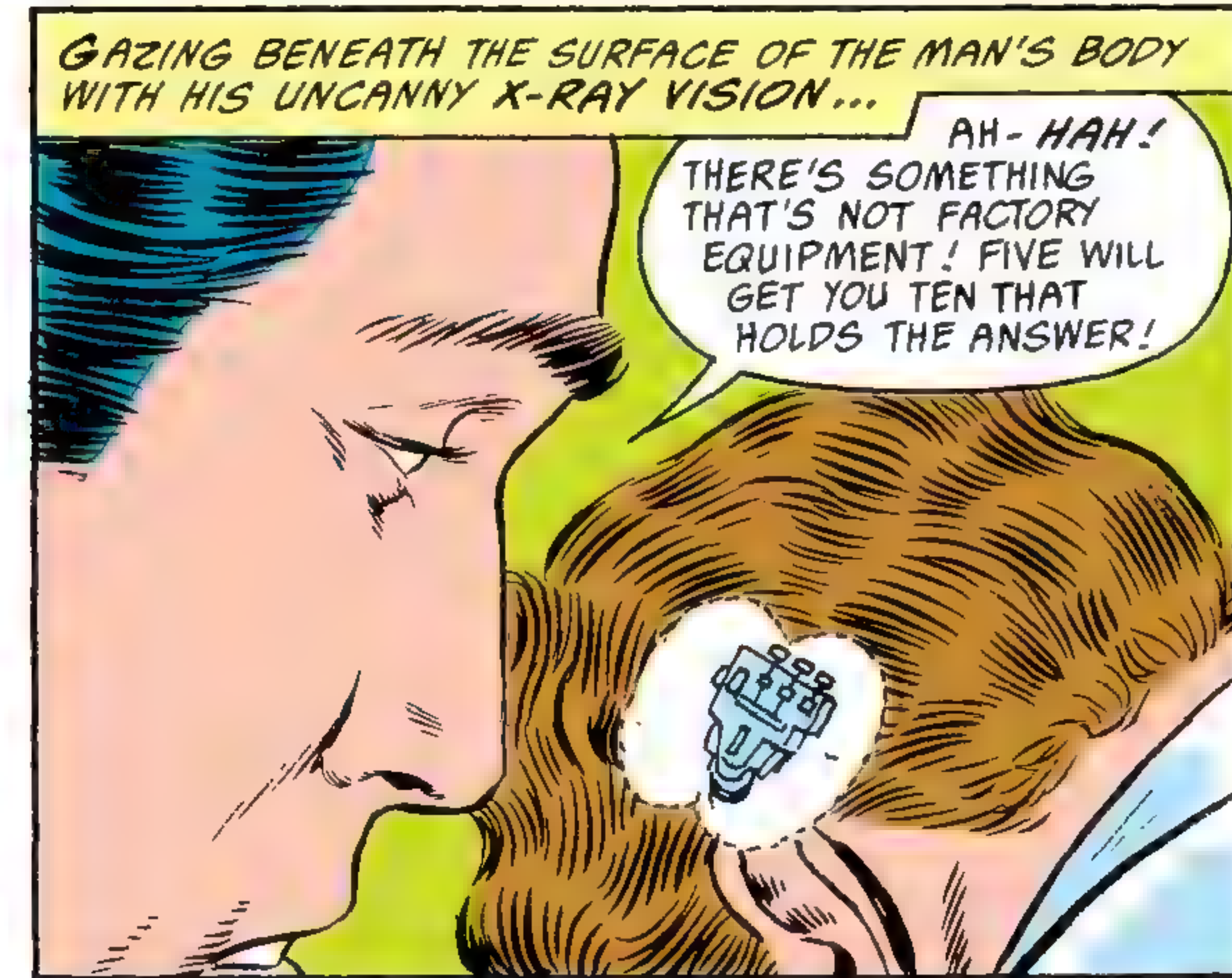
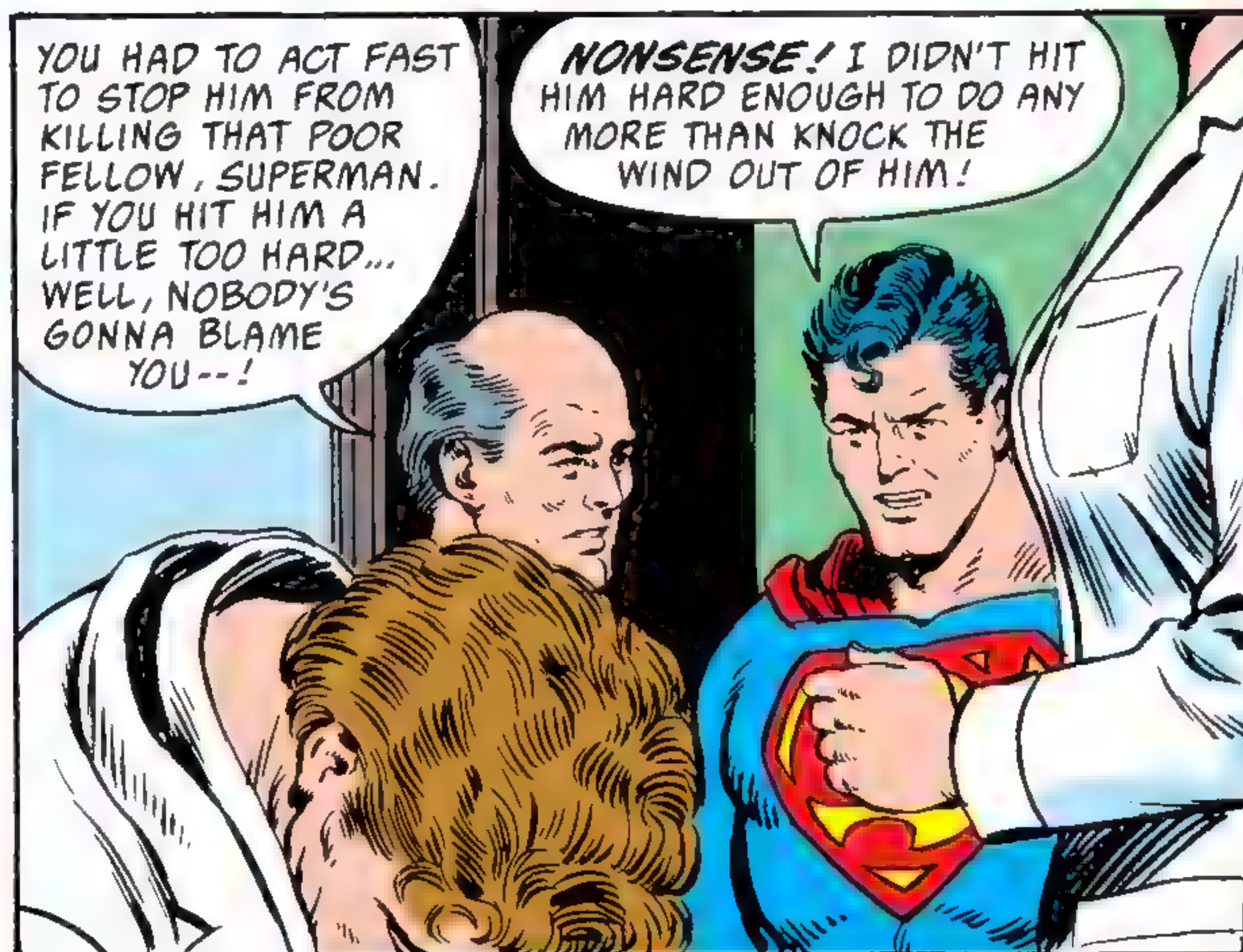
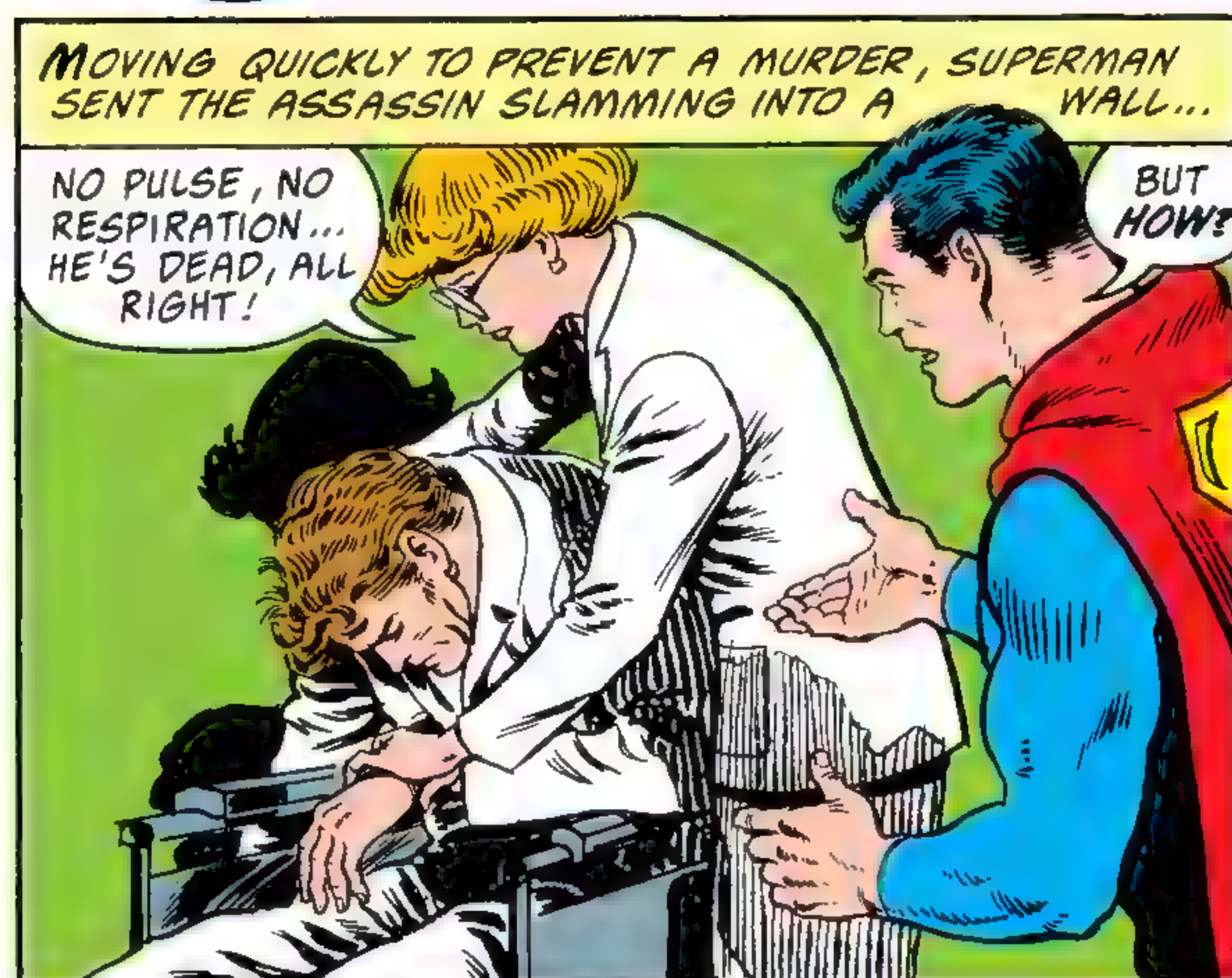


CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!

ARRIVING AT A CALIFORNIA BURN CENTER TO QUESTION A MAN ABOUT AN ATTEMPTED MURDER, THE MAN OF STEEL FINDS THAT HIS SUSPECT IS ABOUT TO BECOME ANOTHER VICTIM...



CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!



LAST ISSUE: SUPERMAN DISCOVERED THAT THE WOULD-BE ASSASSIN OF CHARLES CULPEPPER HAD BEEN KILLED BY REMOTE CONTROL-- THROUGH A RADIO TRANSCEIVER IMPLANTED IN HIS SKULL.

WHEN DOCTORS TRIED TO EXAMINE THE DEVICE, IT EXPLODED!

"MISSING PERSON"

ROGER STERN
WRITER

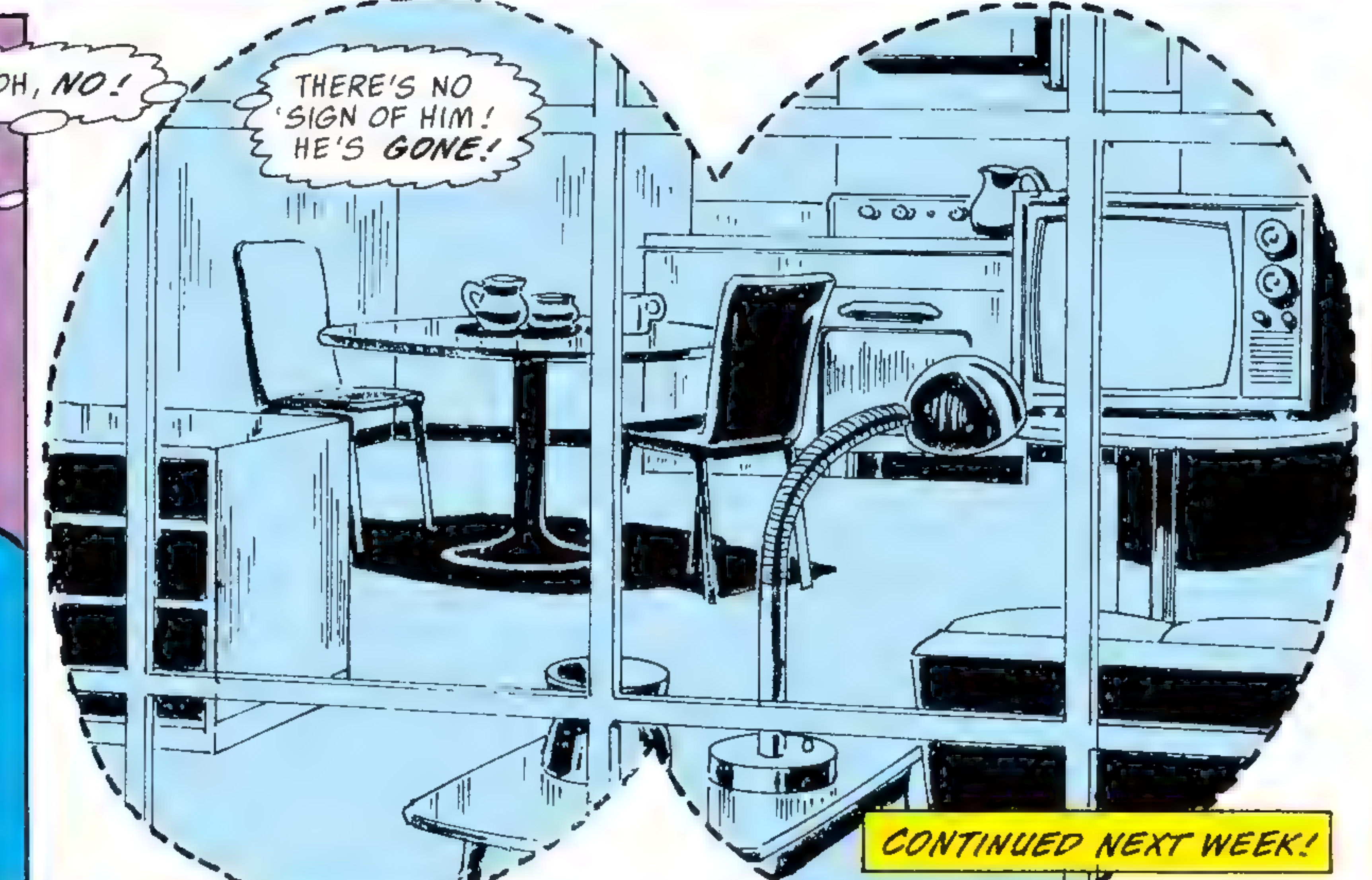
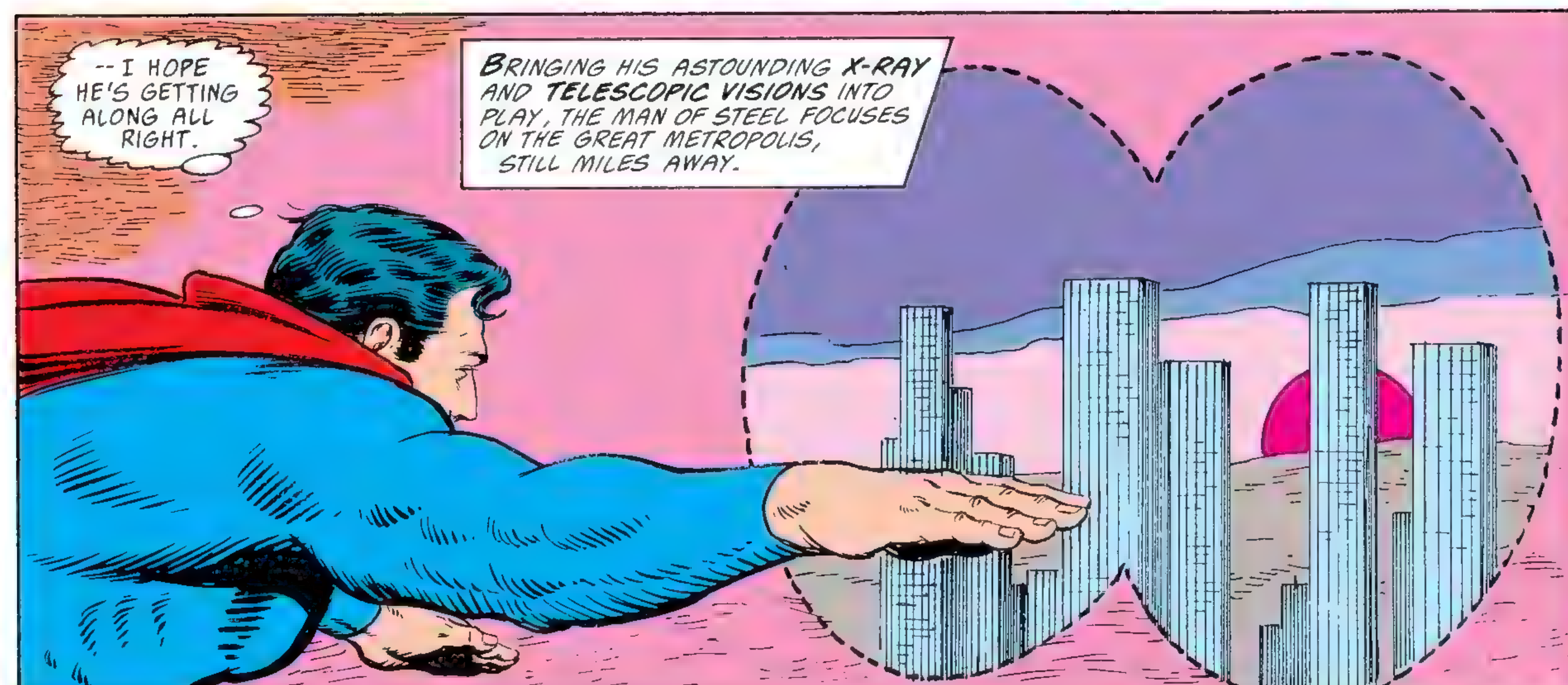
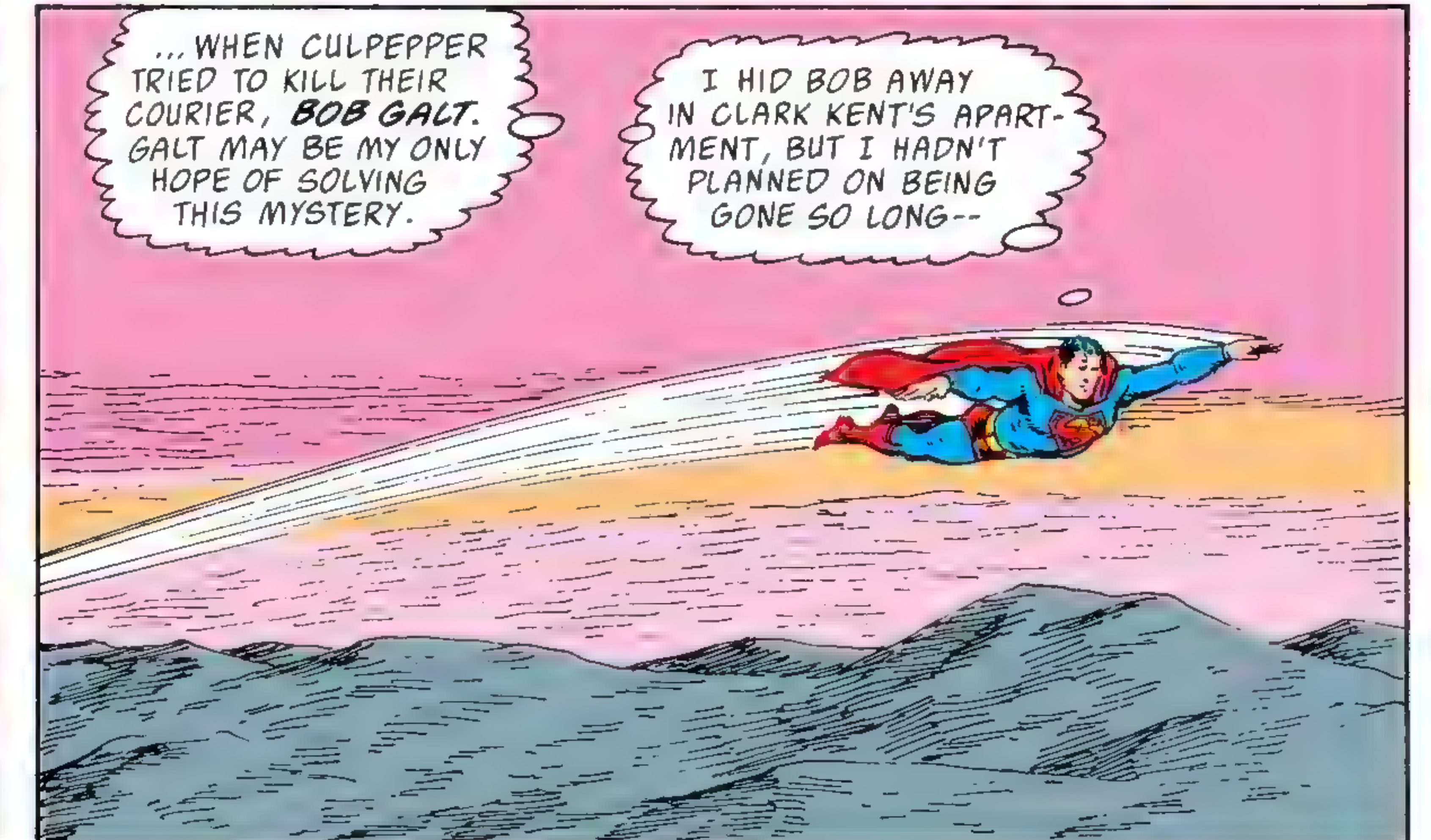
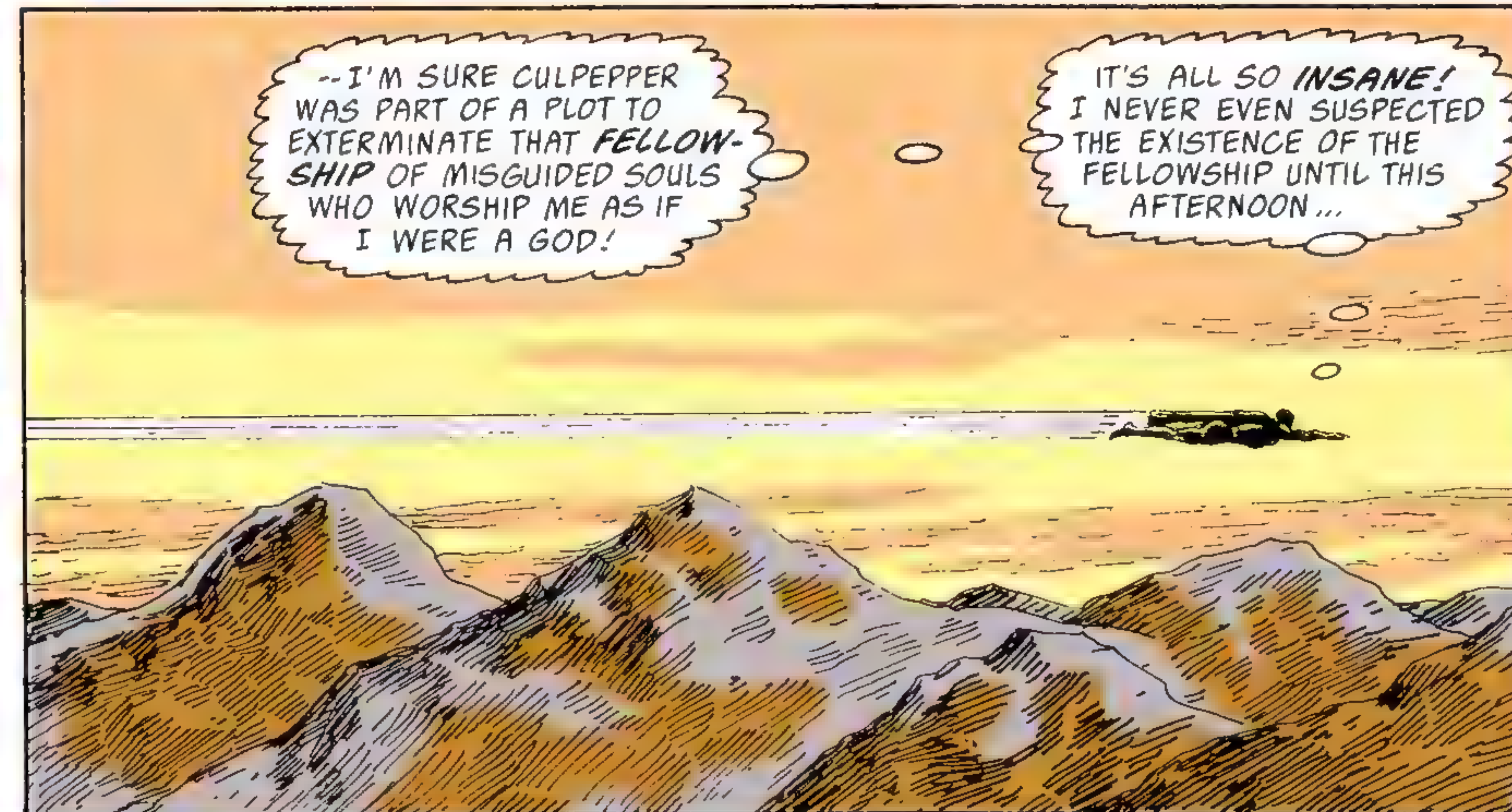
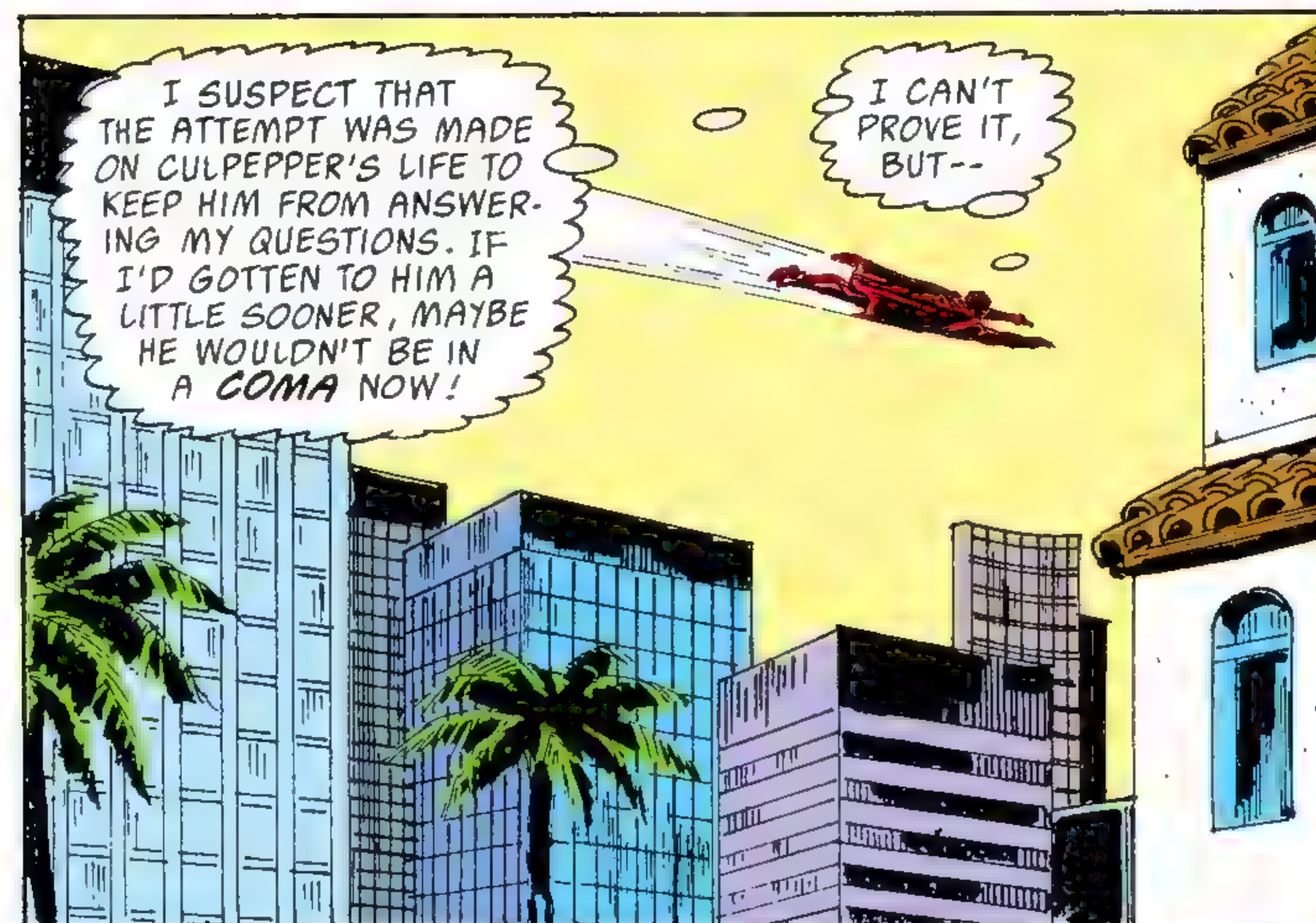
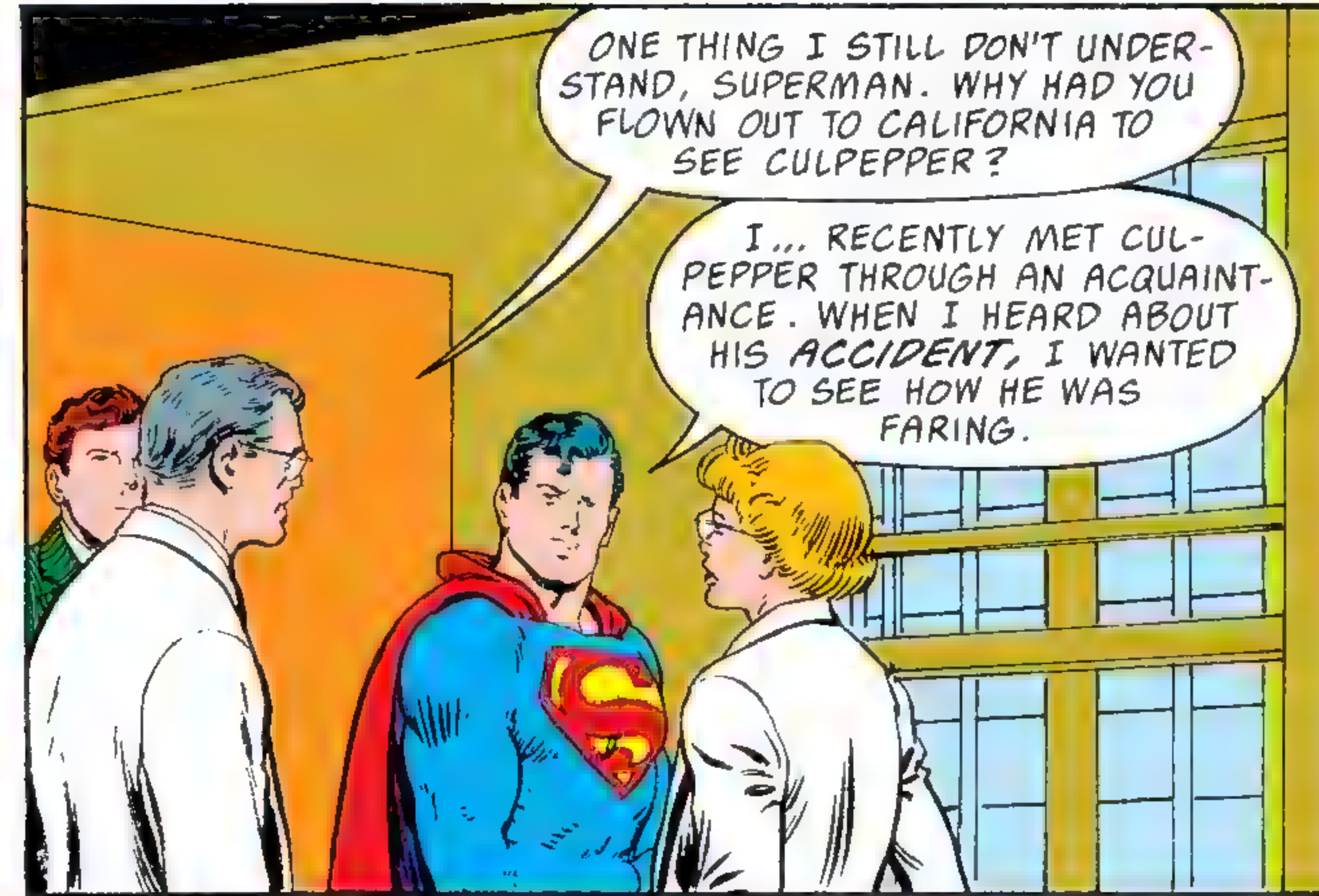
CURT SWAN
PENCILER

MURPHY ANDERSON
INKER

BILL OAKLEY
LETTERER

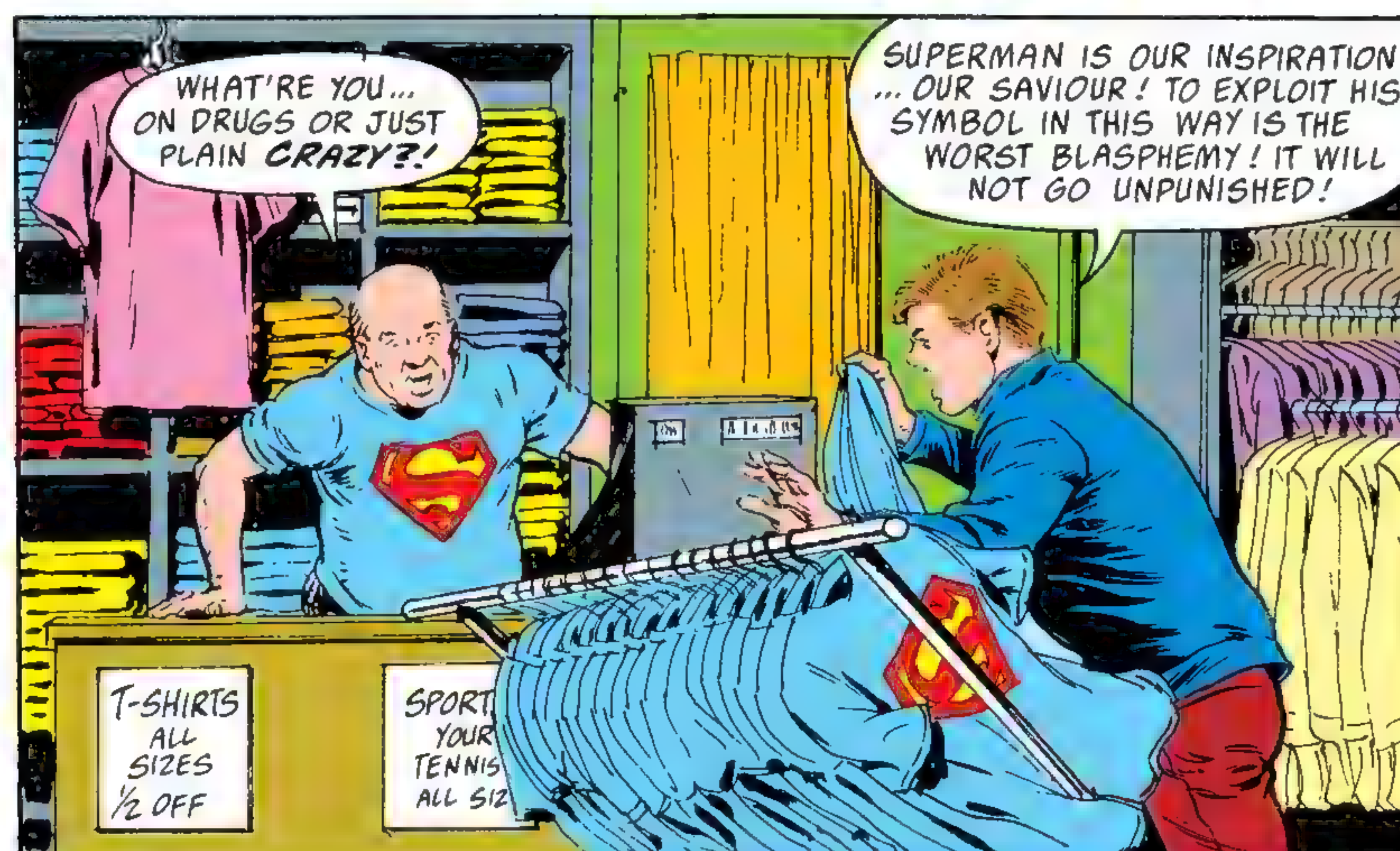
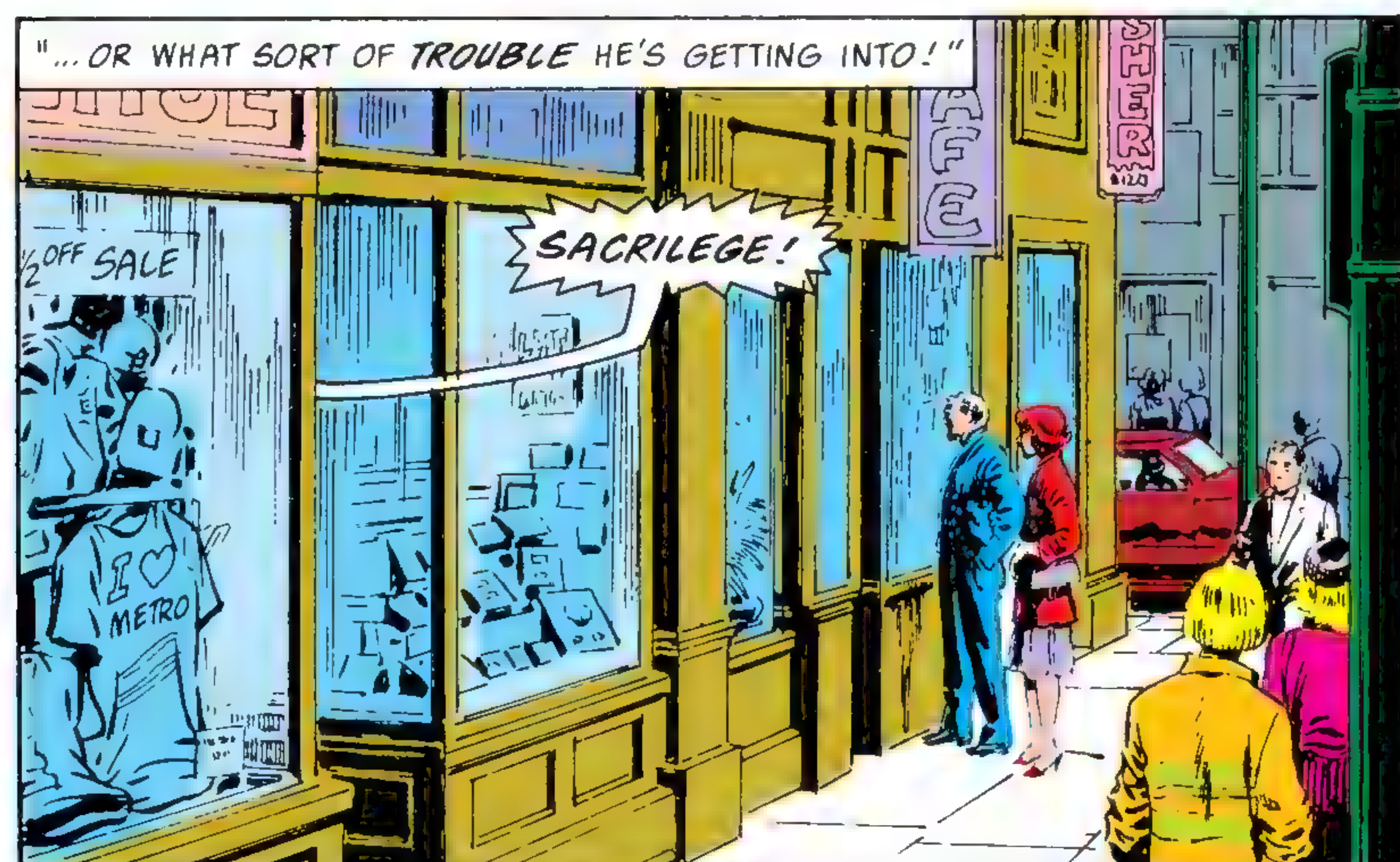
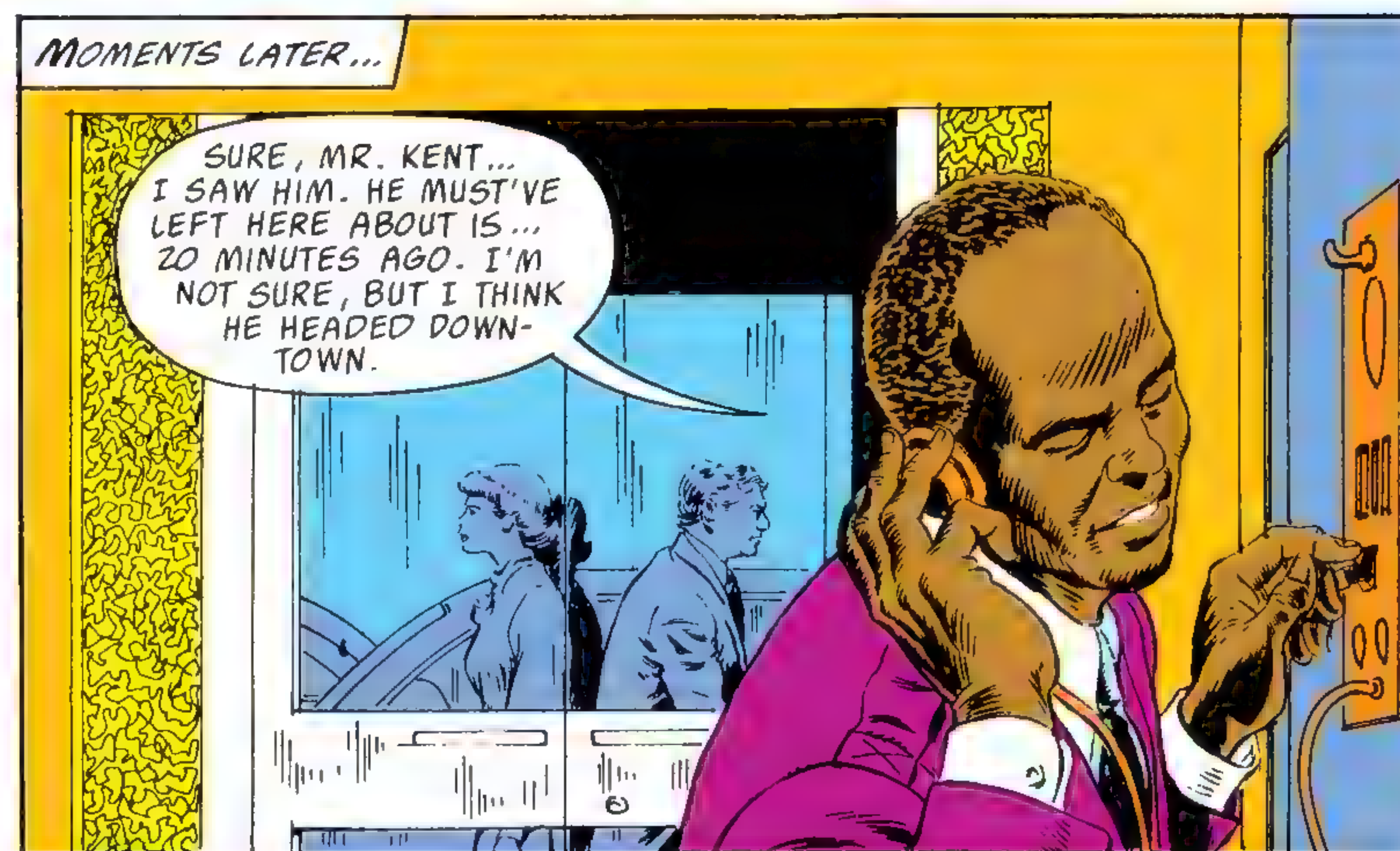
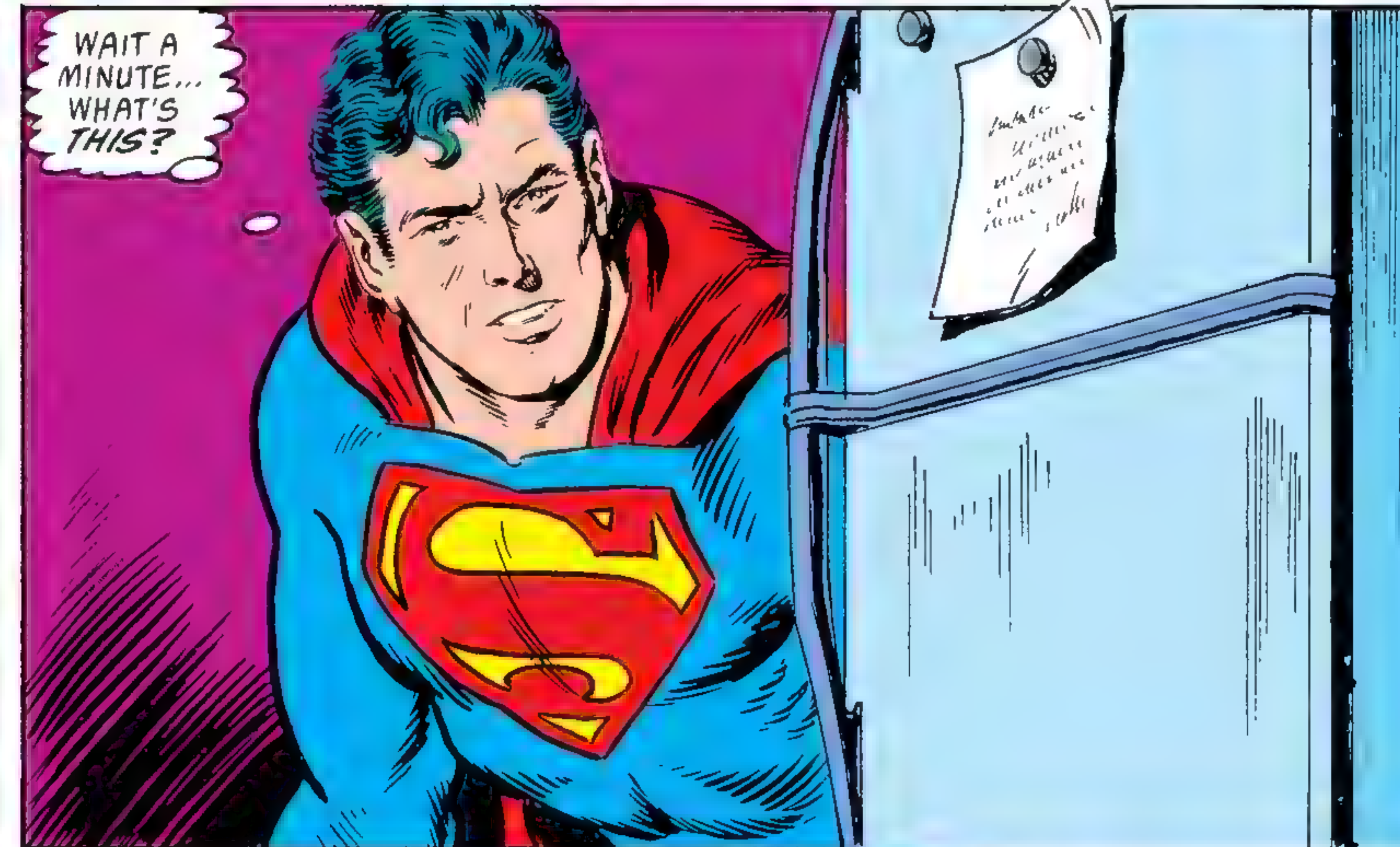
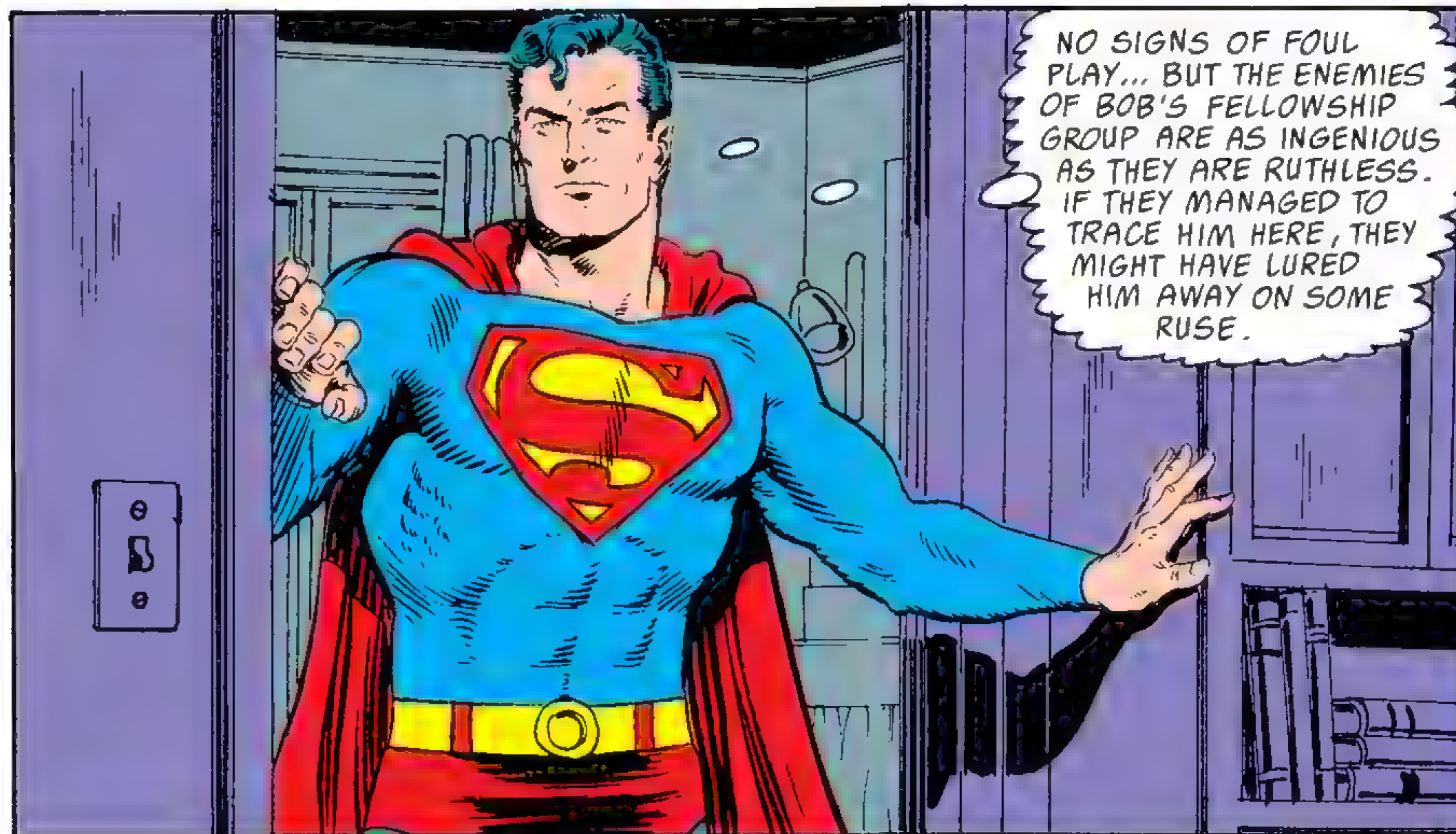
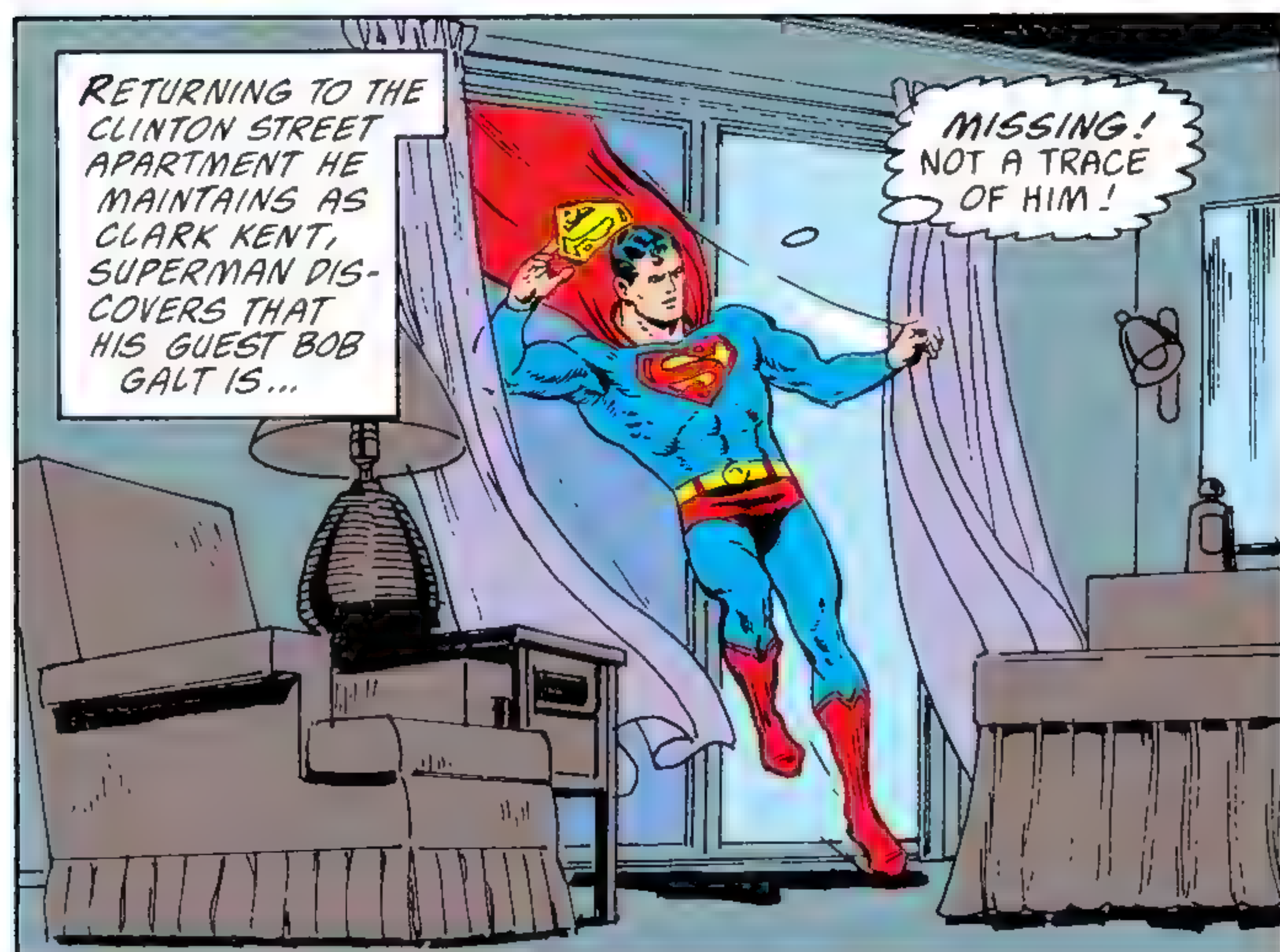
TOM ZIUKO
COLORIST

MIKE CARLIN
EDITOR



"OUT ON THE TOWN"

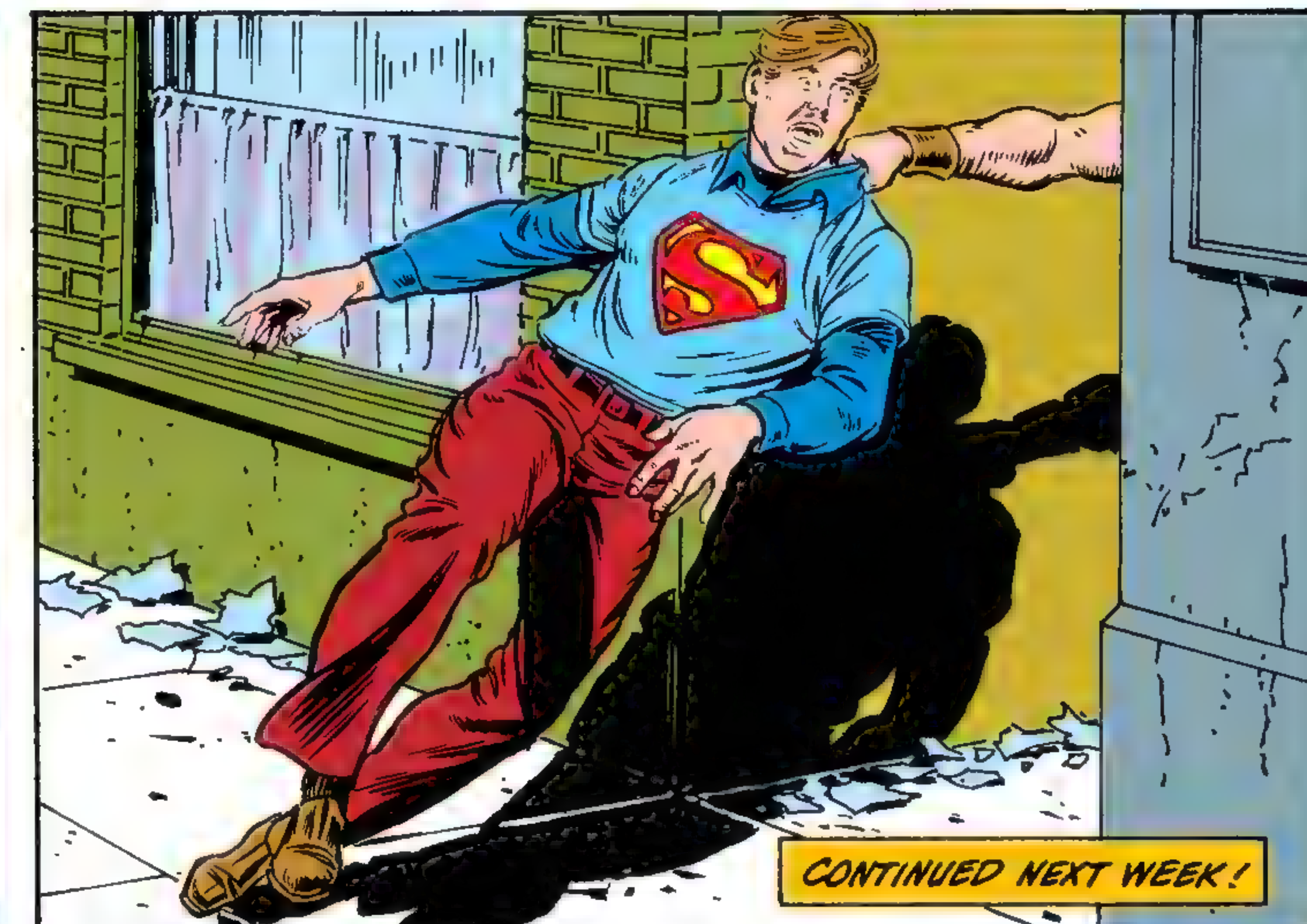
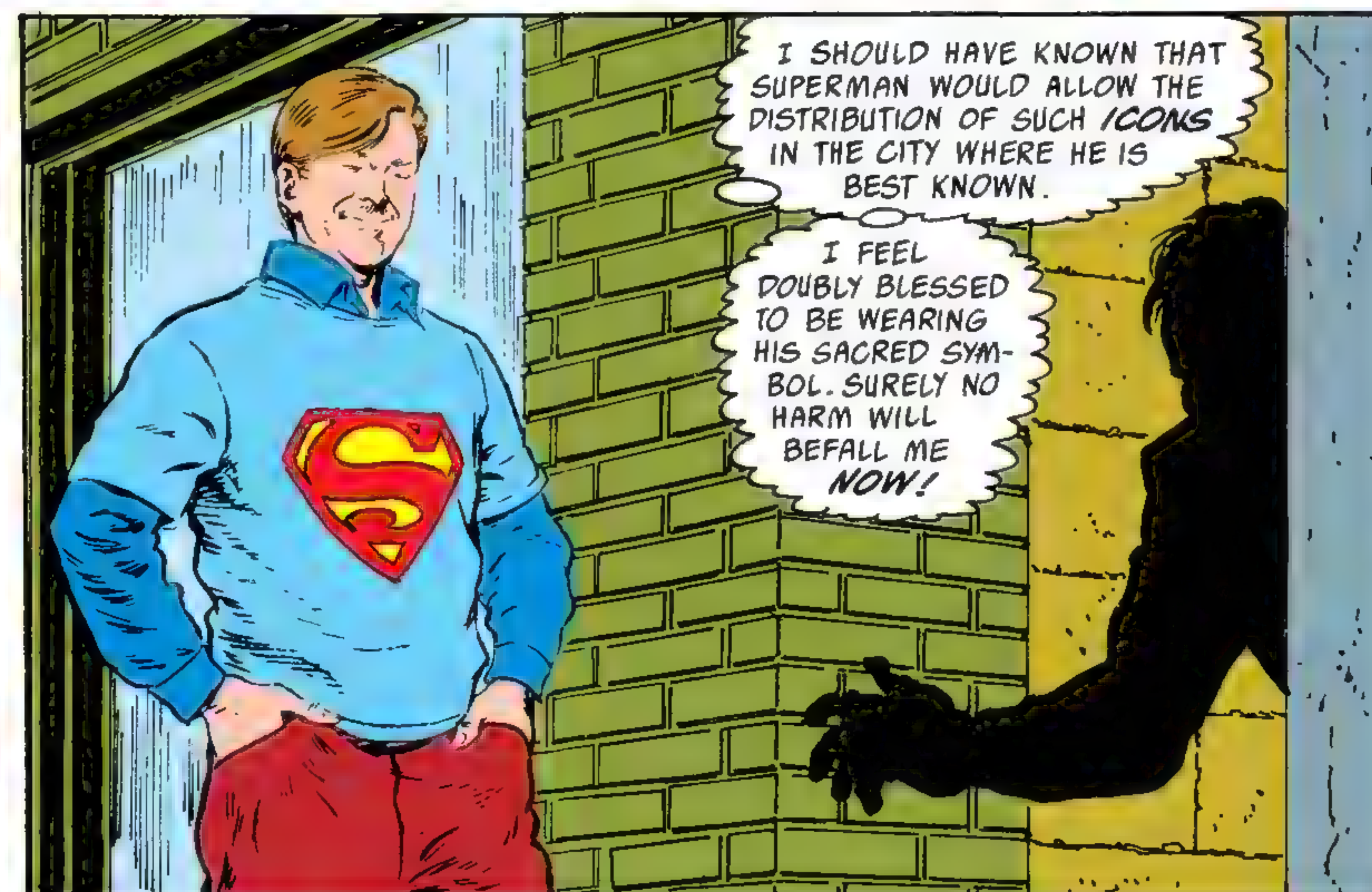
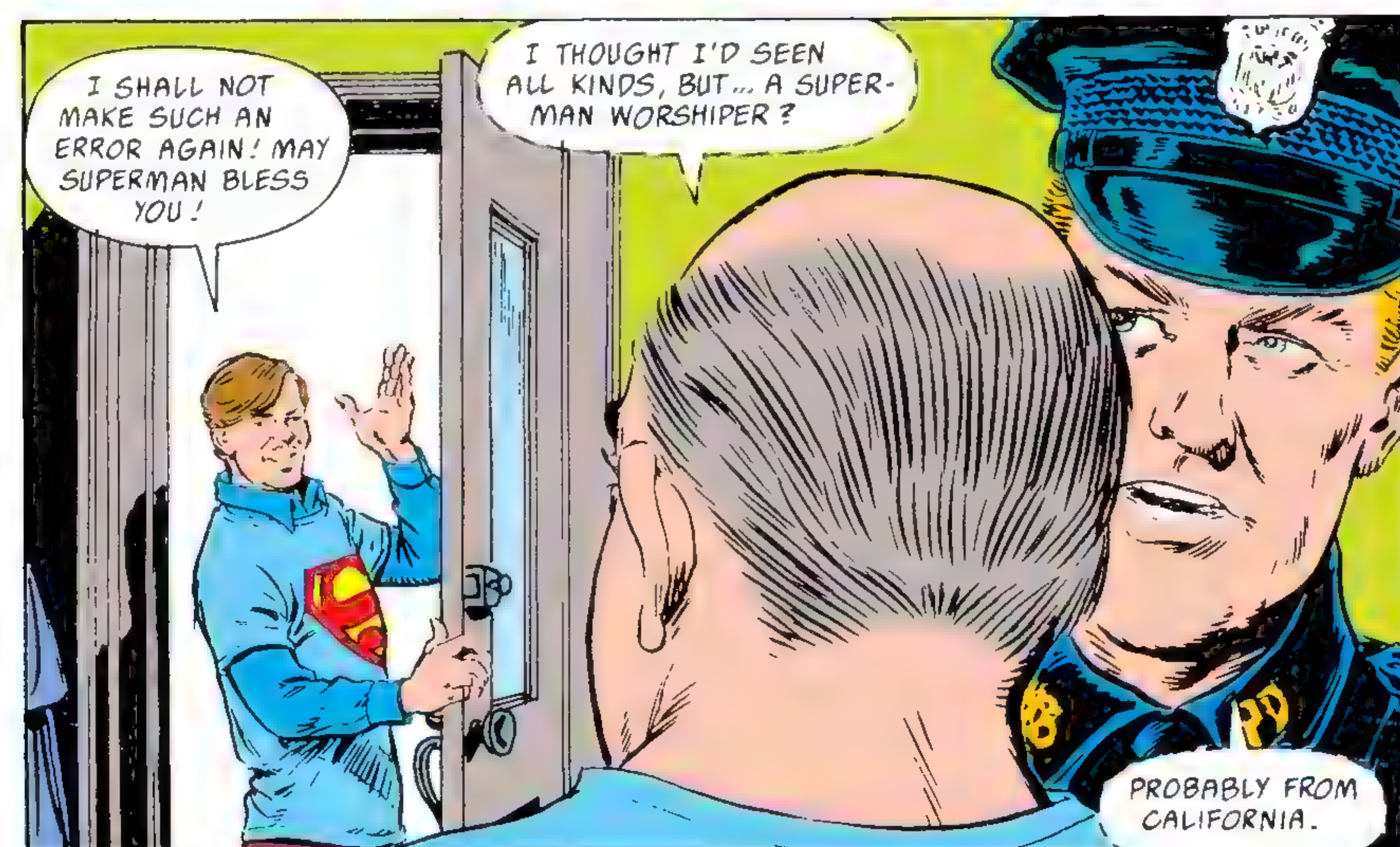
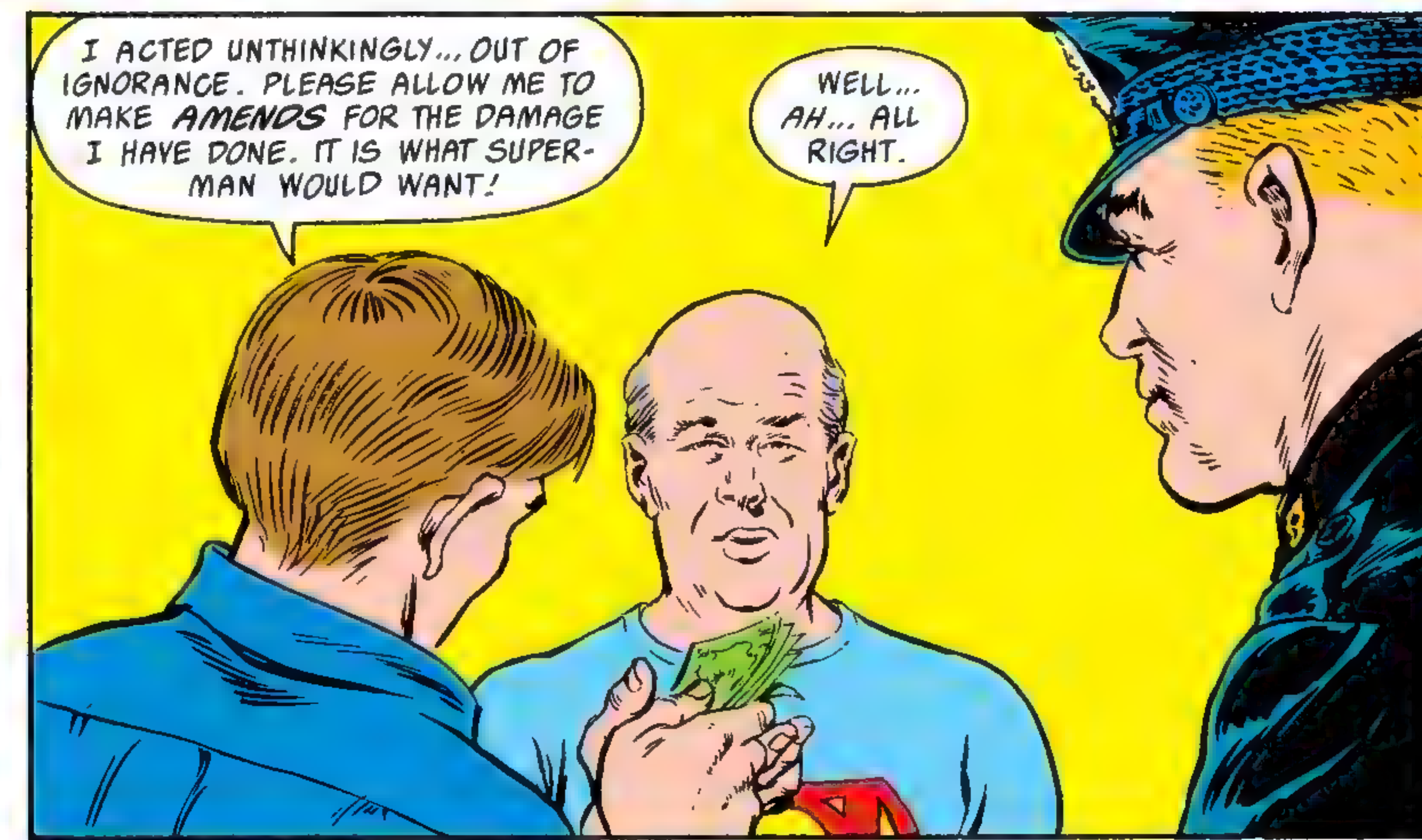
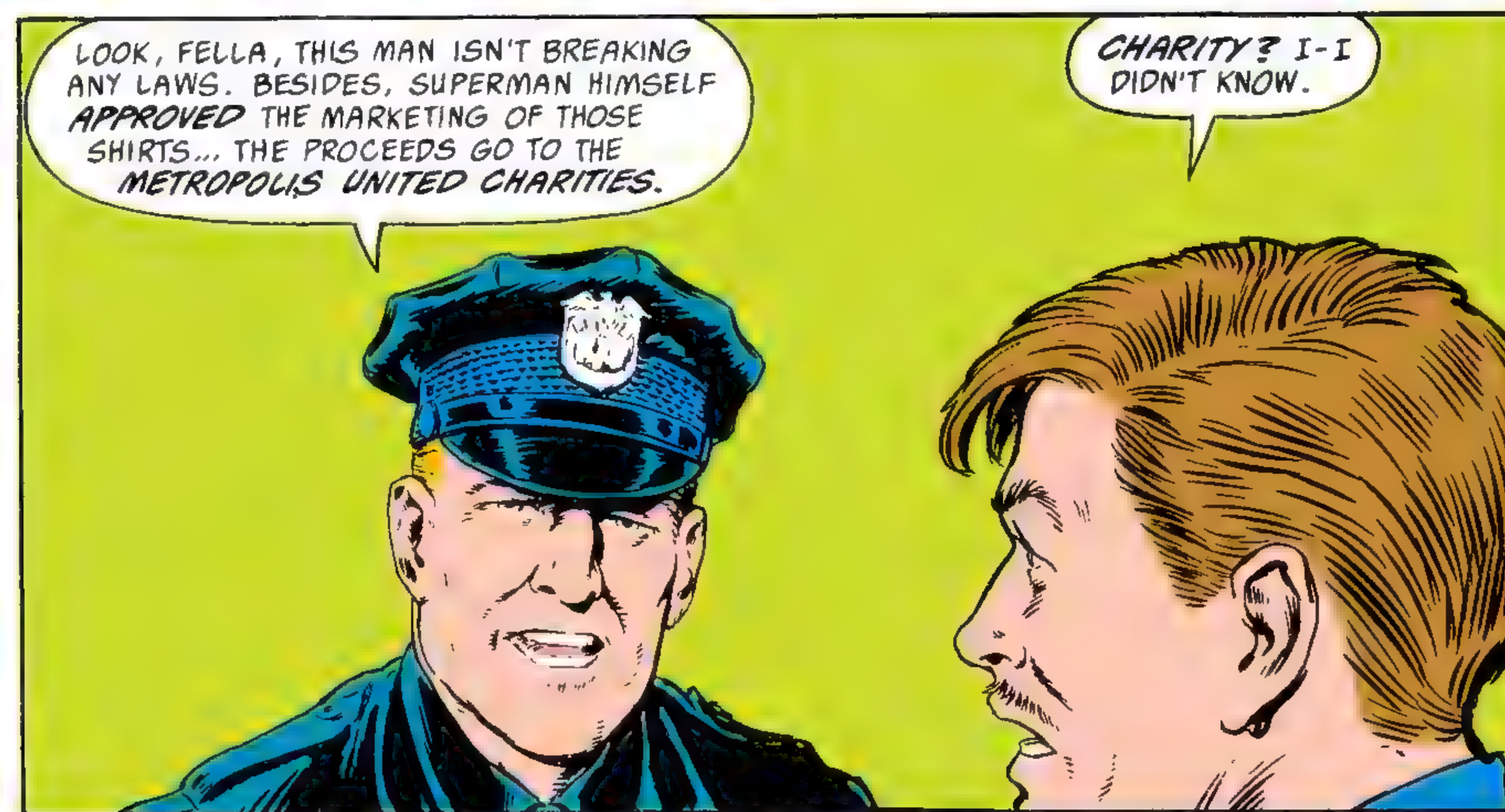
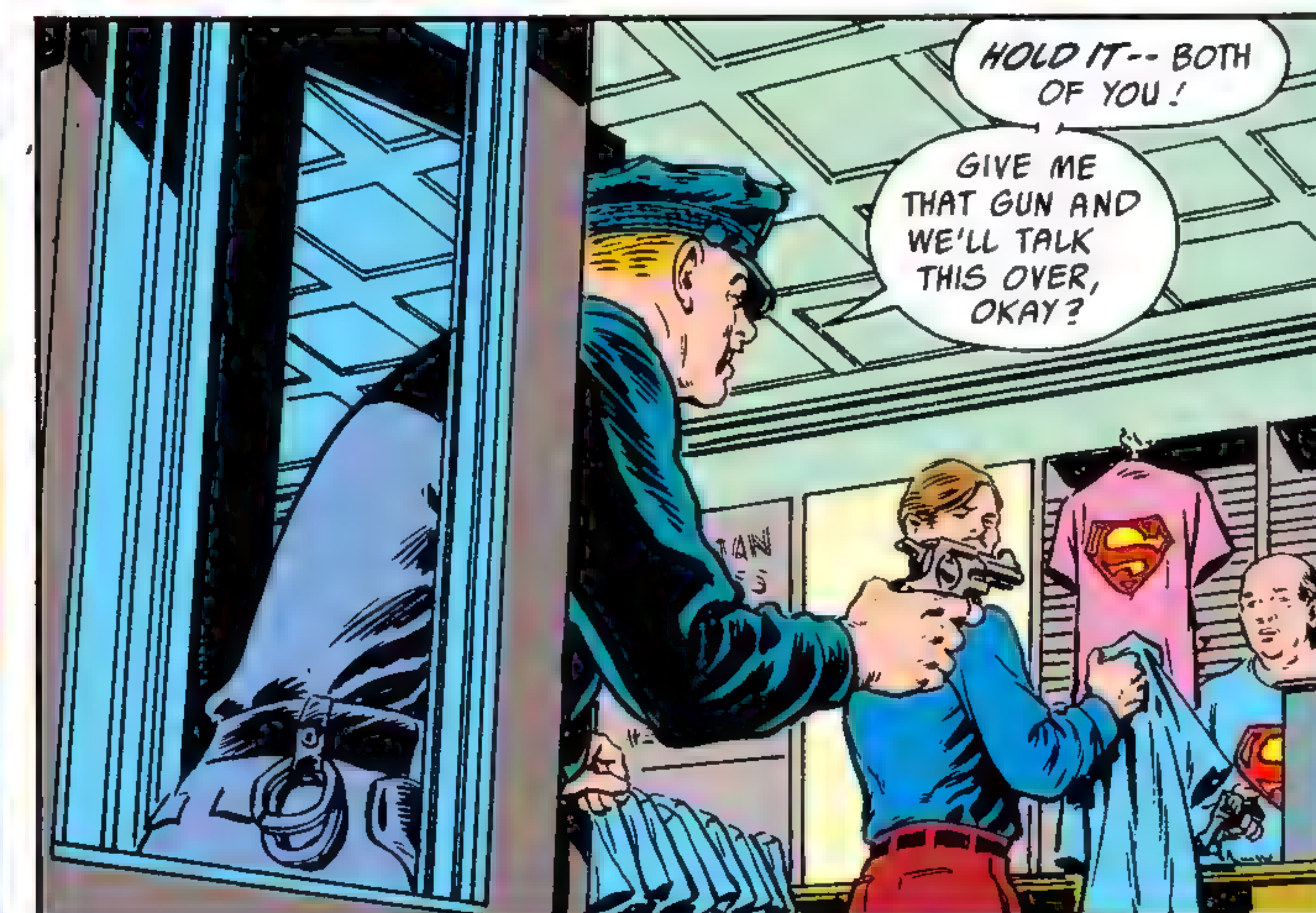
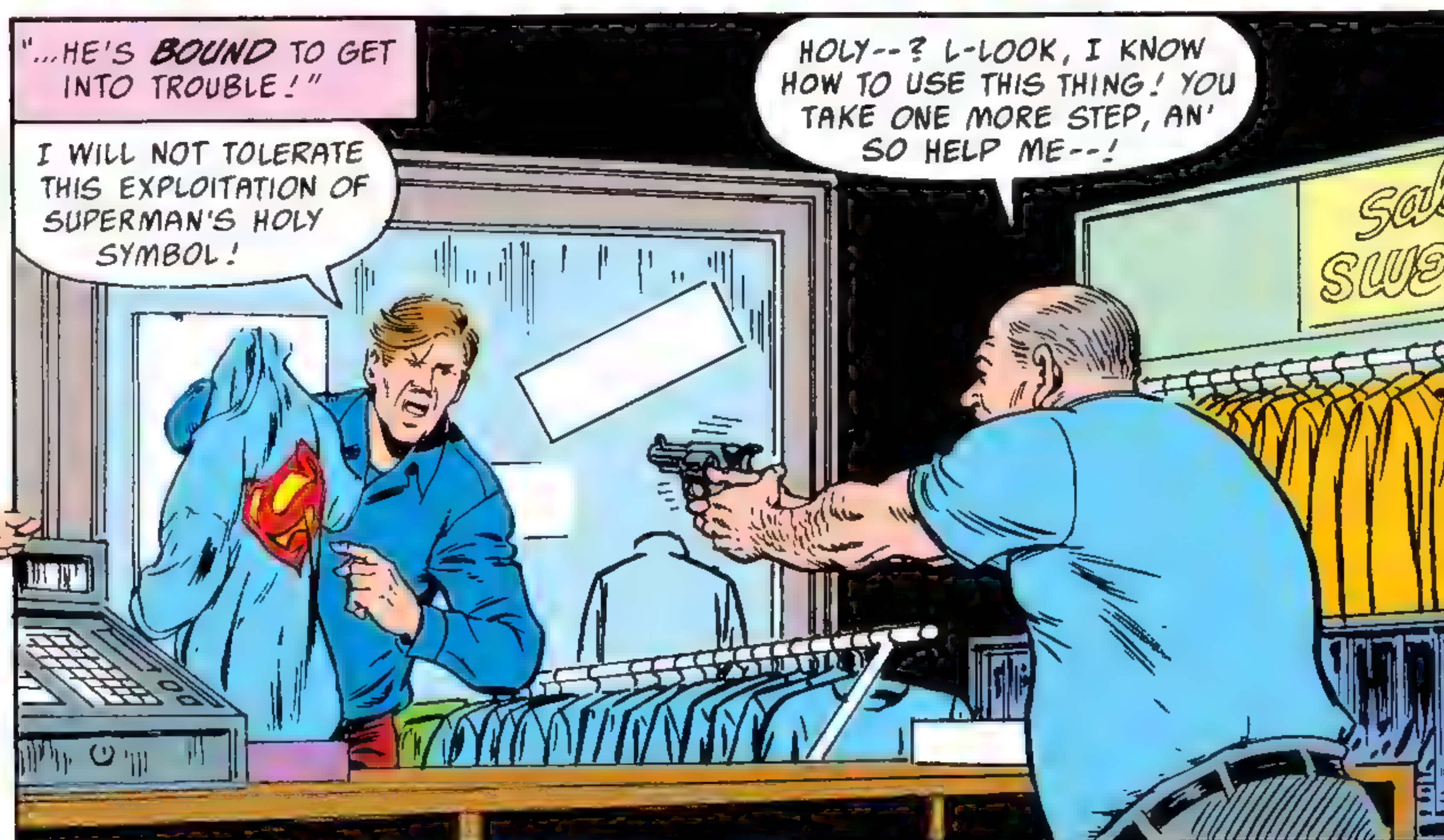
ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



SUPERMAN[®] "PROTECTIVE SHIELD?"

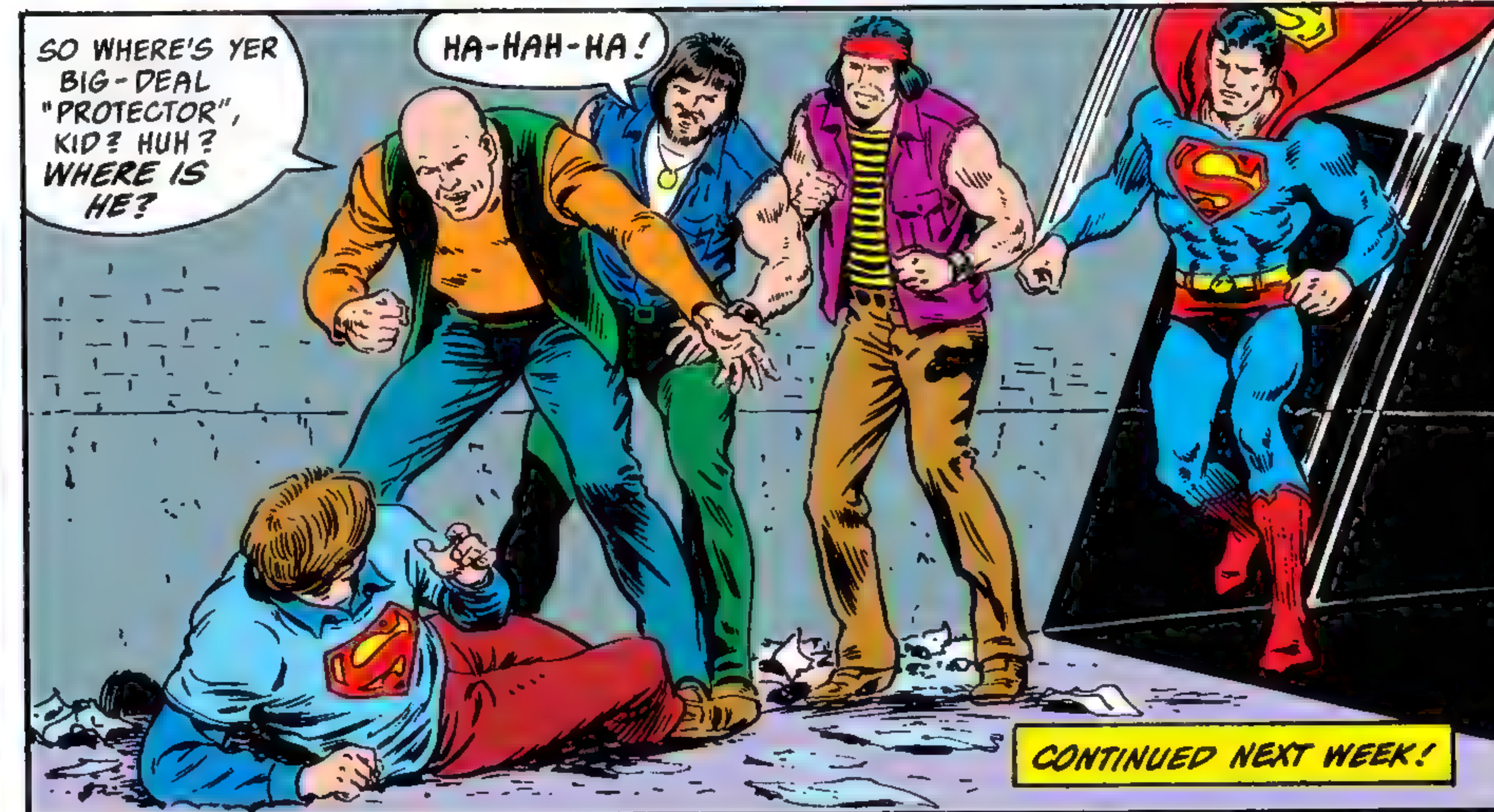
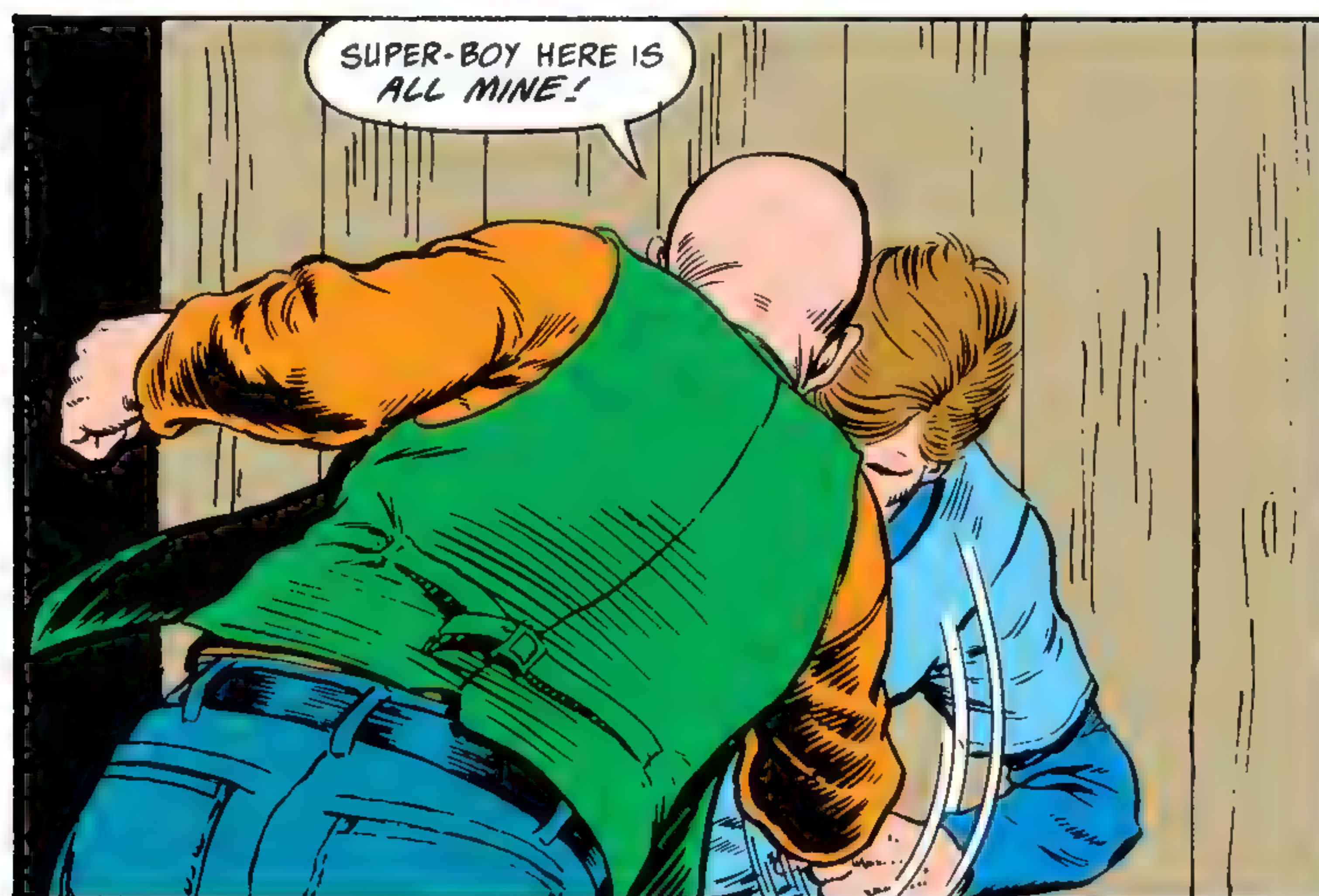
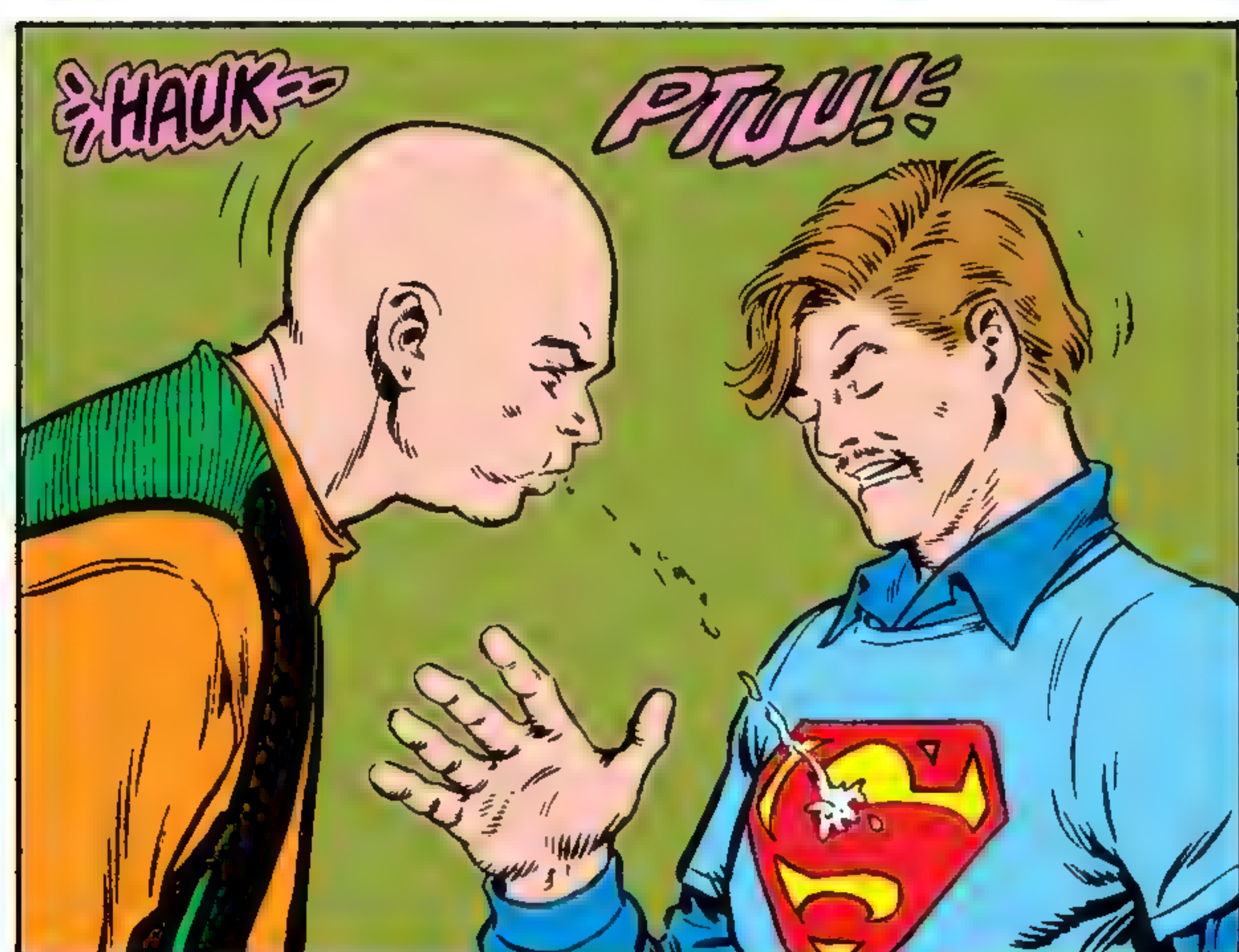
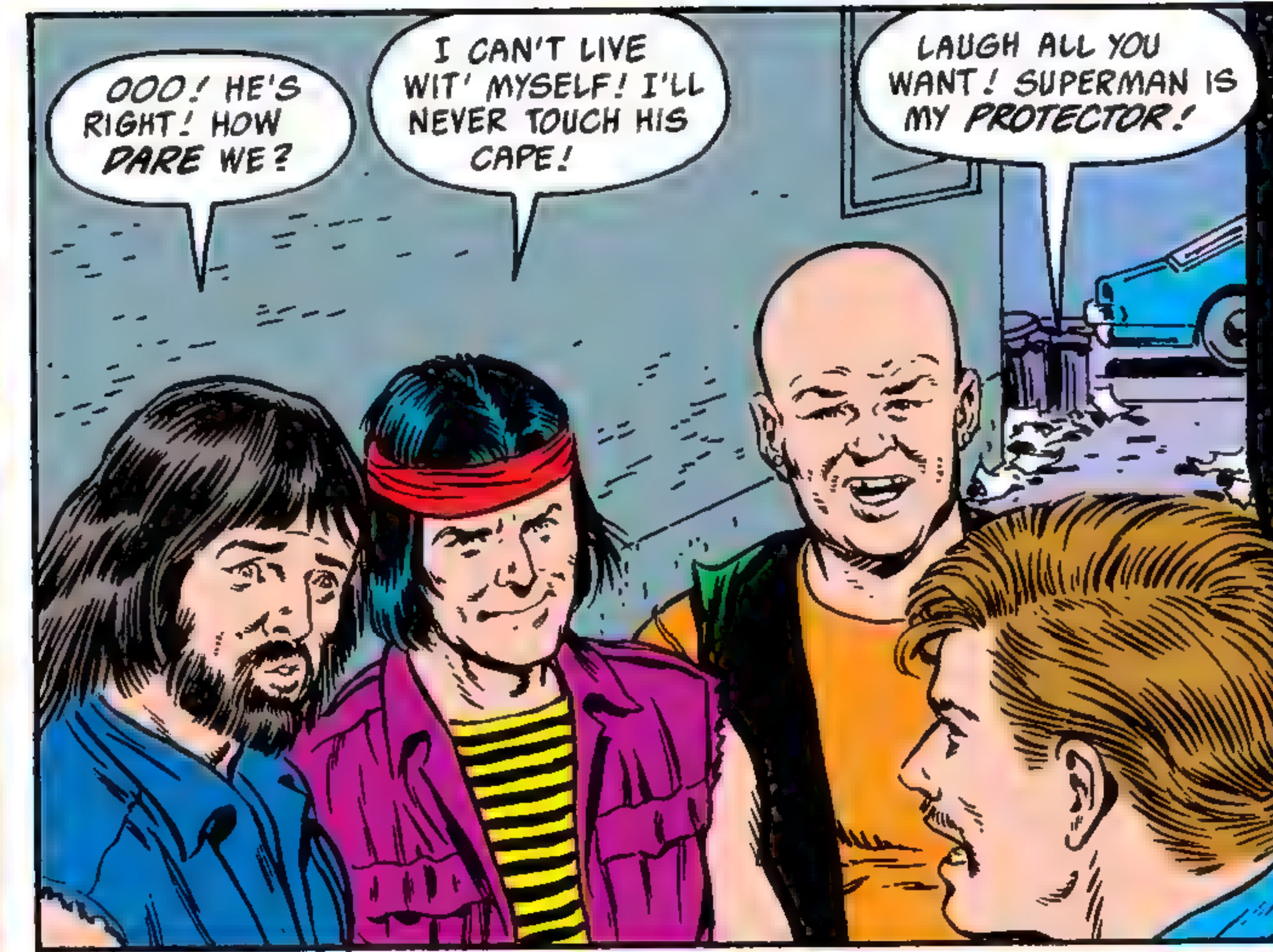
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JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



"TOO LATE, THE HERO?"

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!

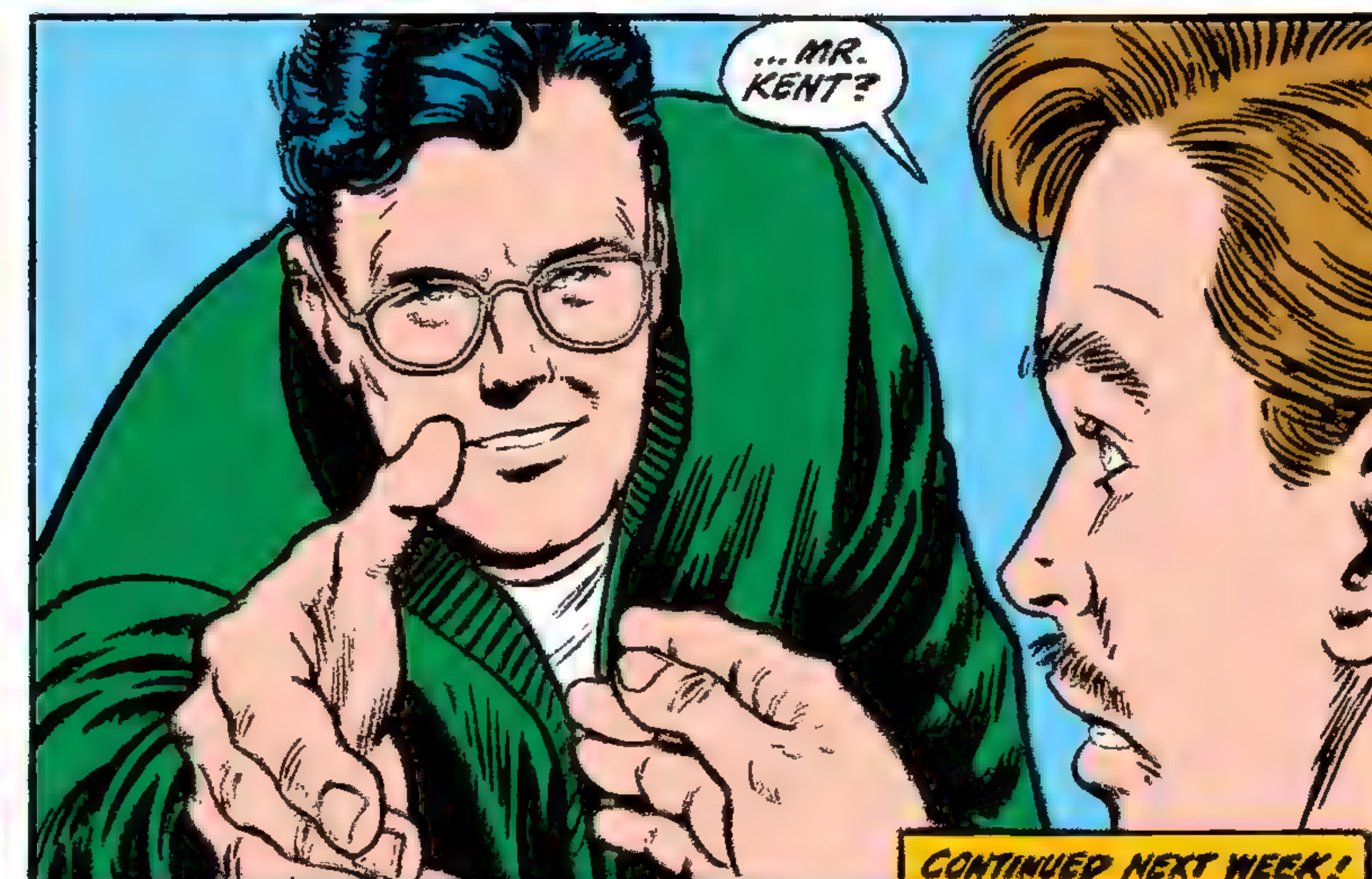
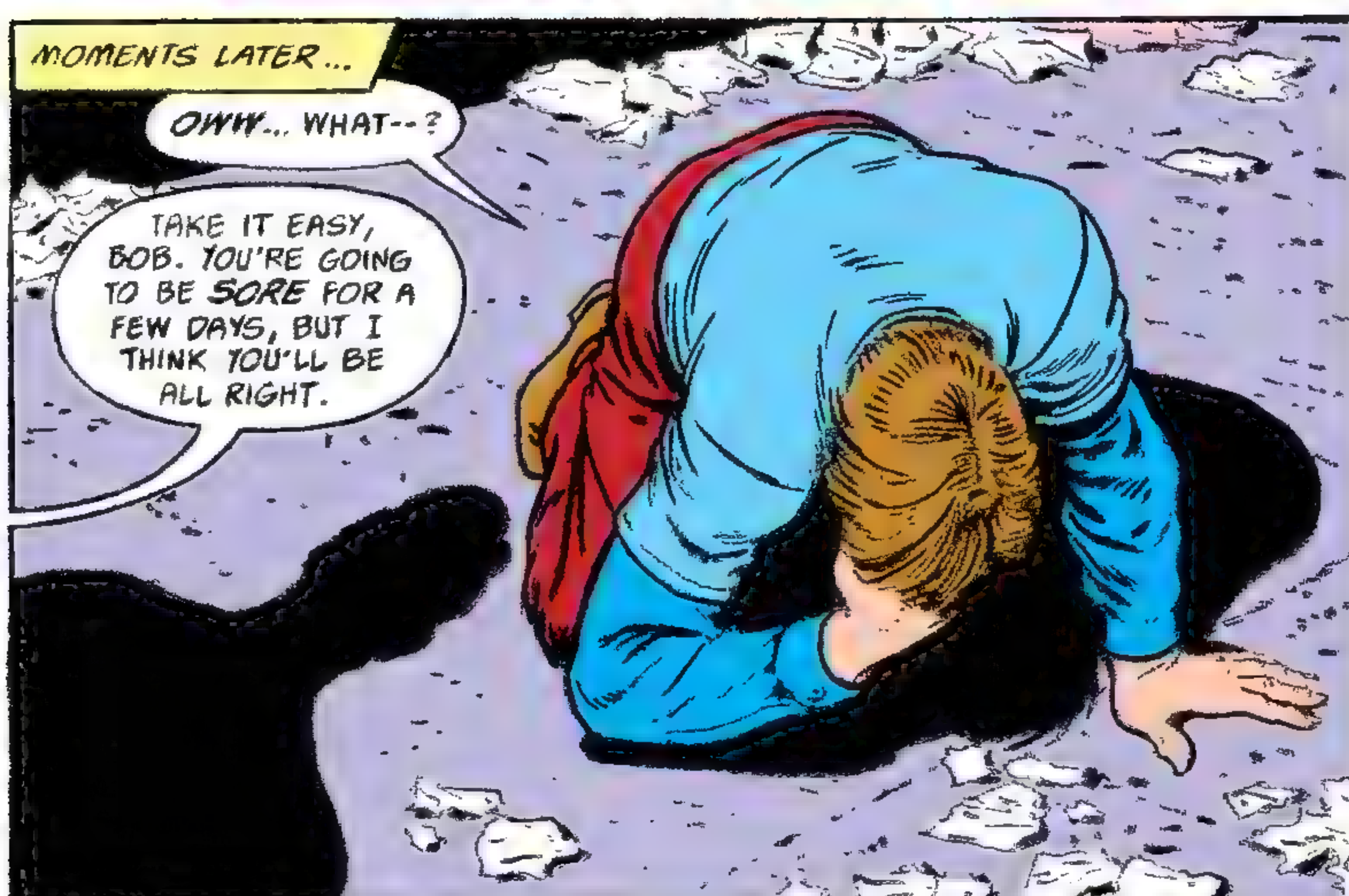
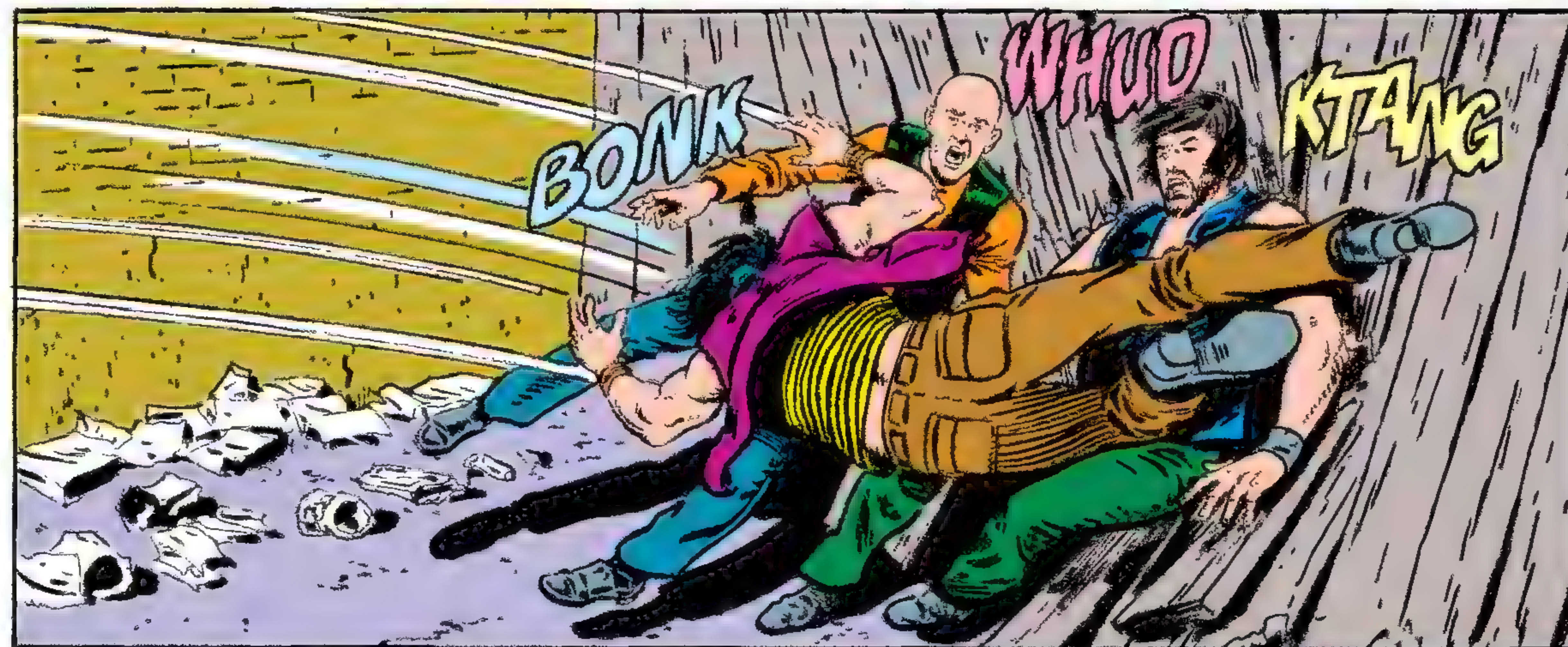
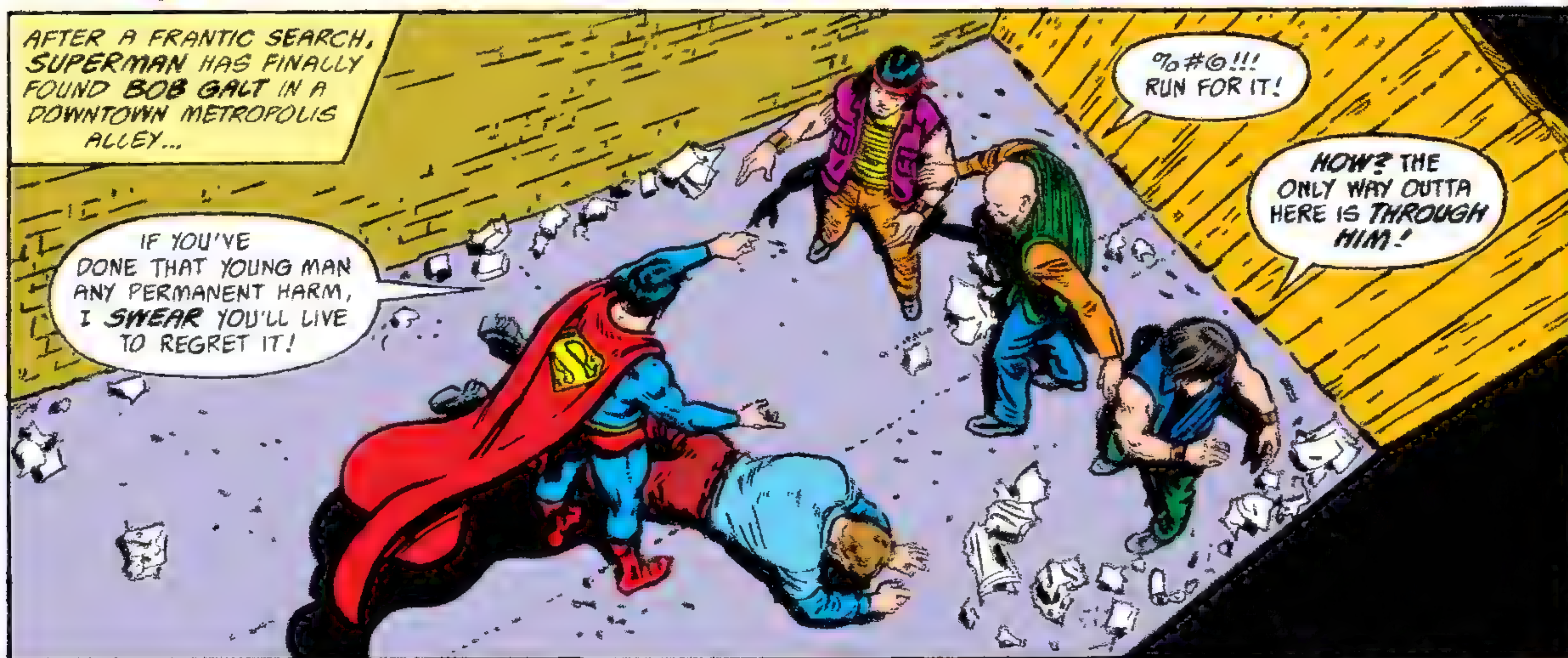
SUPERMAN

Created by
JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER

"LET THE FIT THE

PUNISHMENT CRIME"

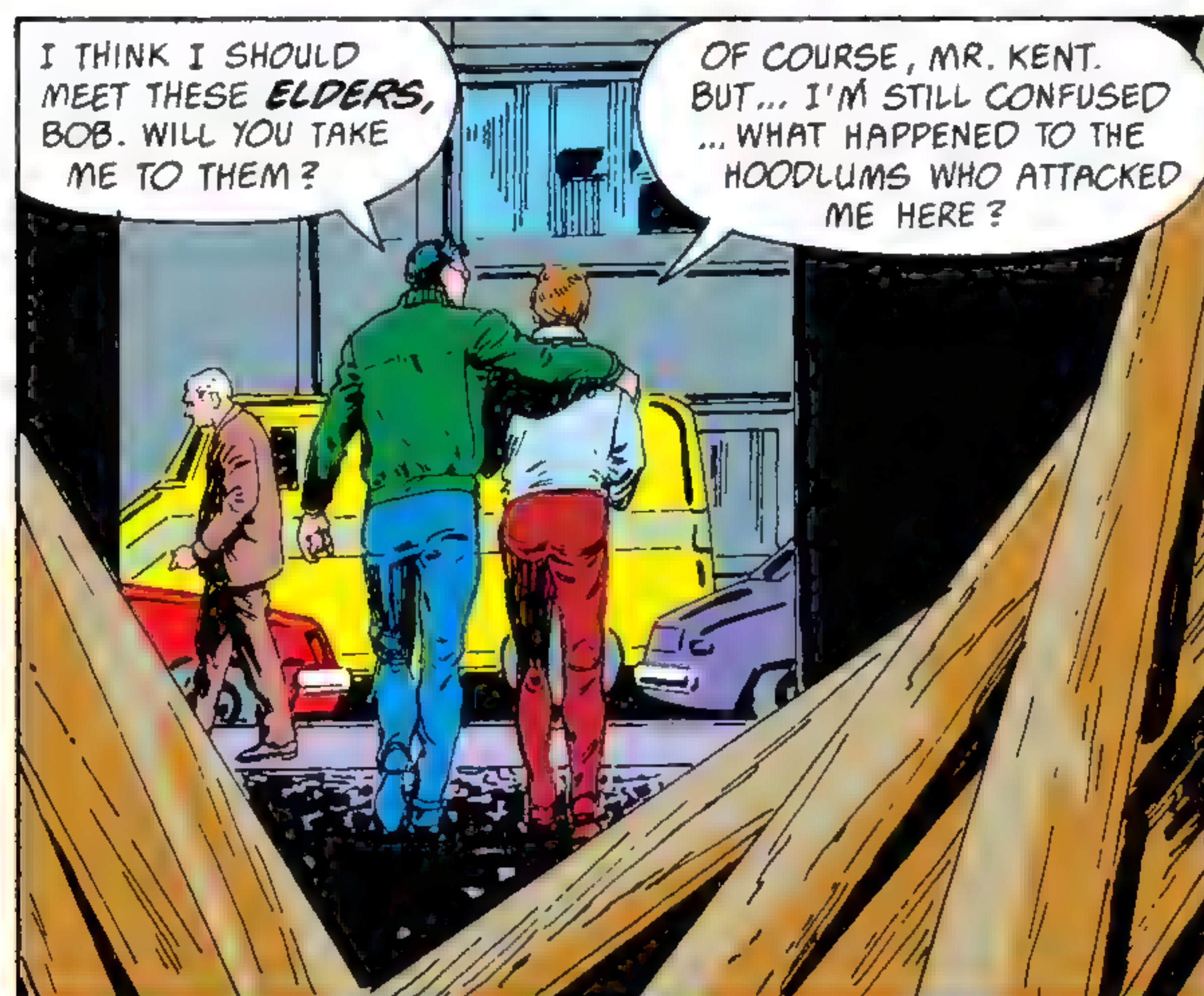
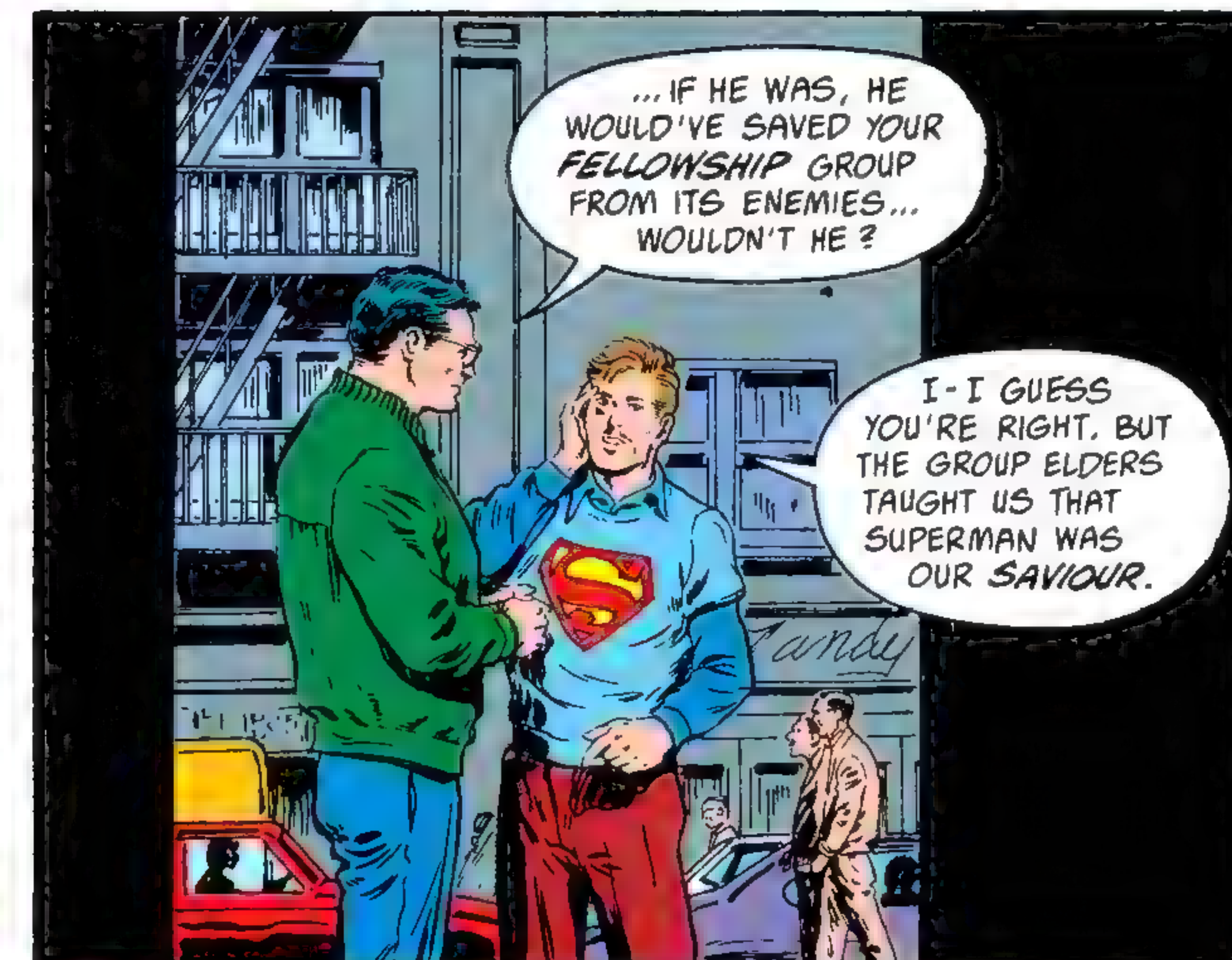
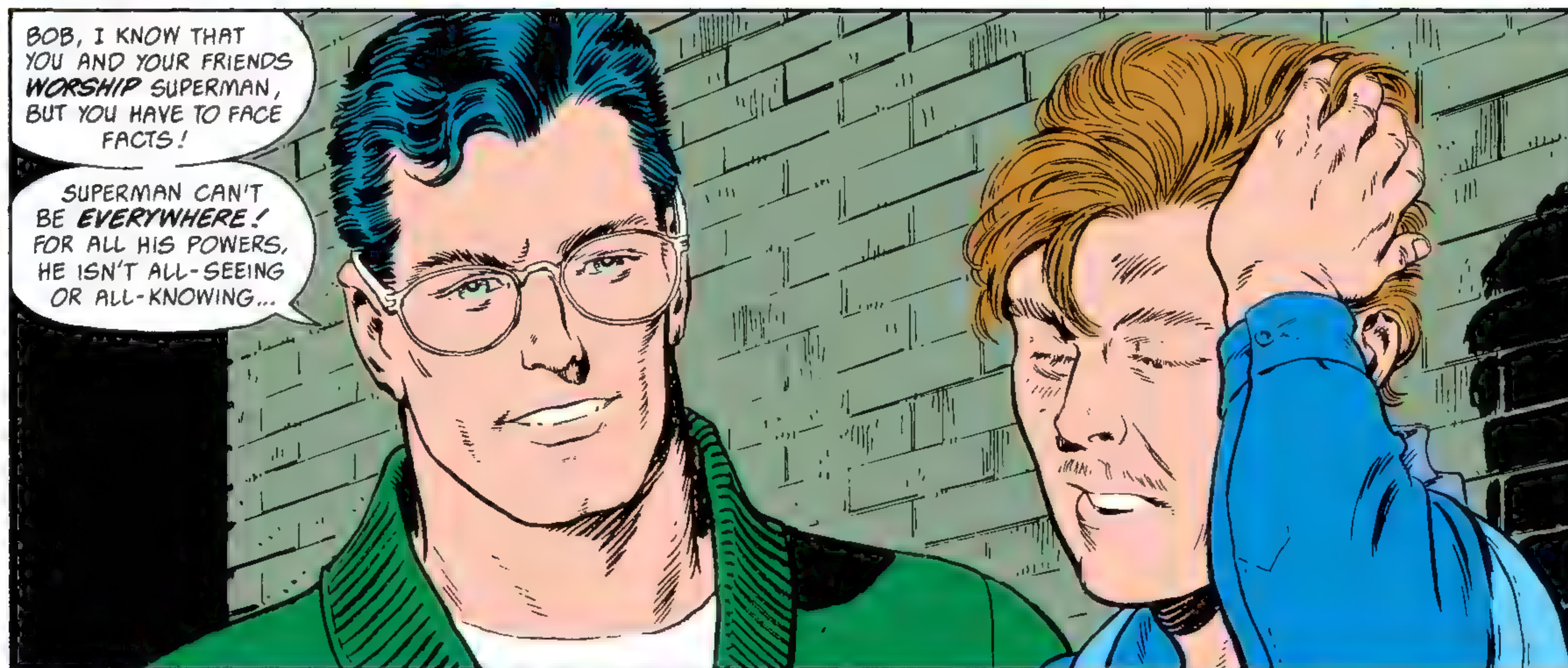
ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



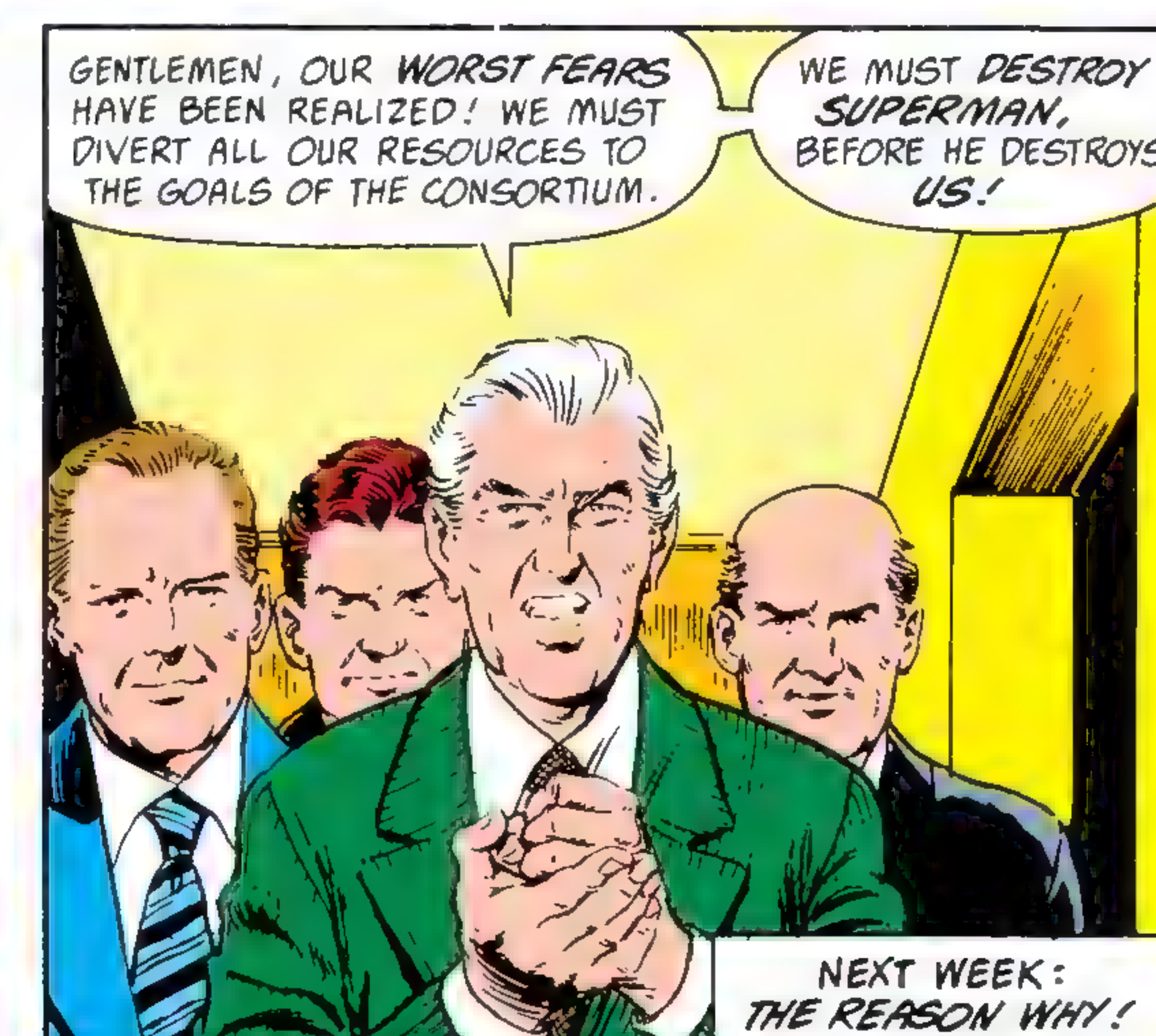
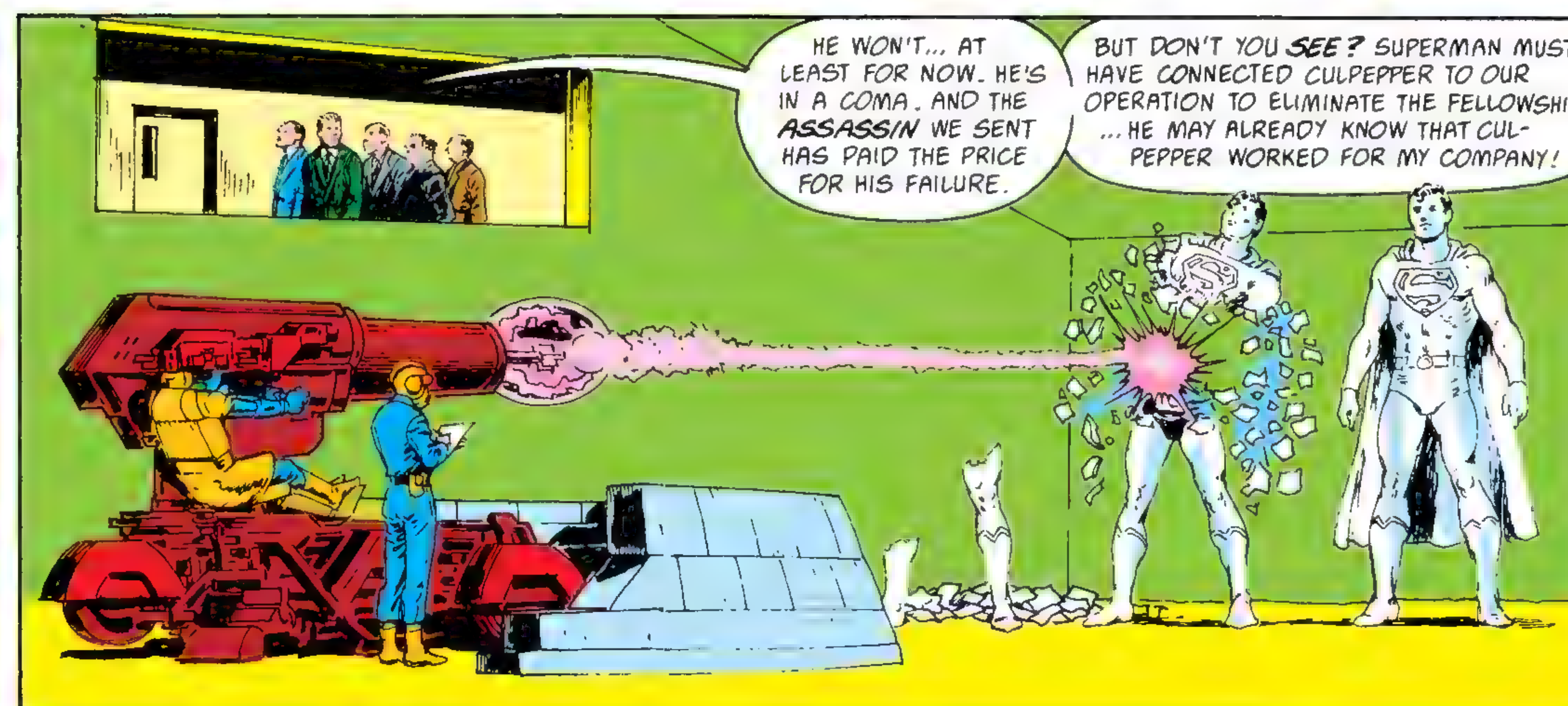
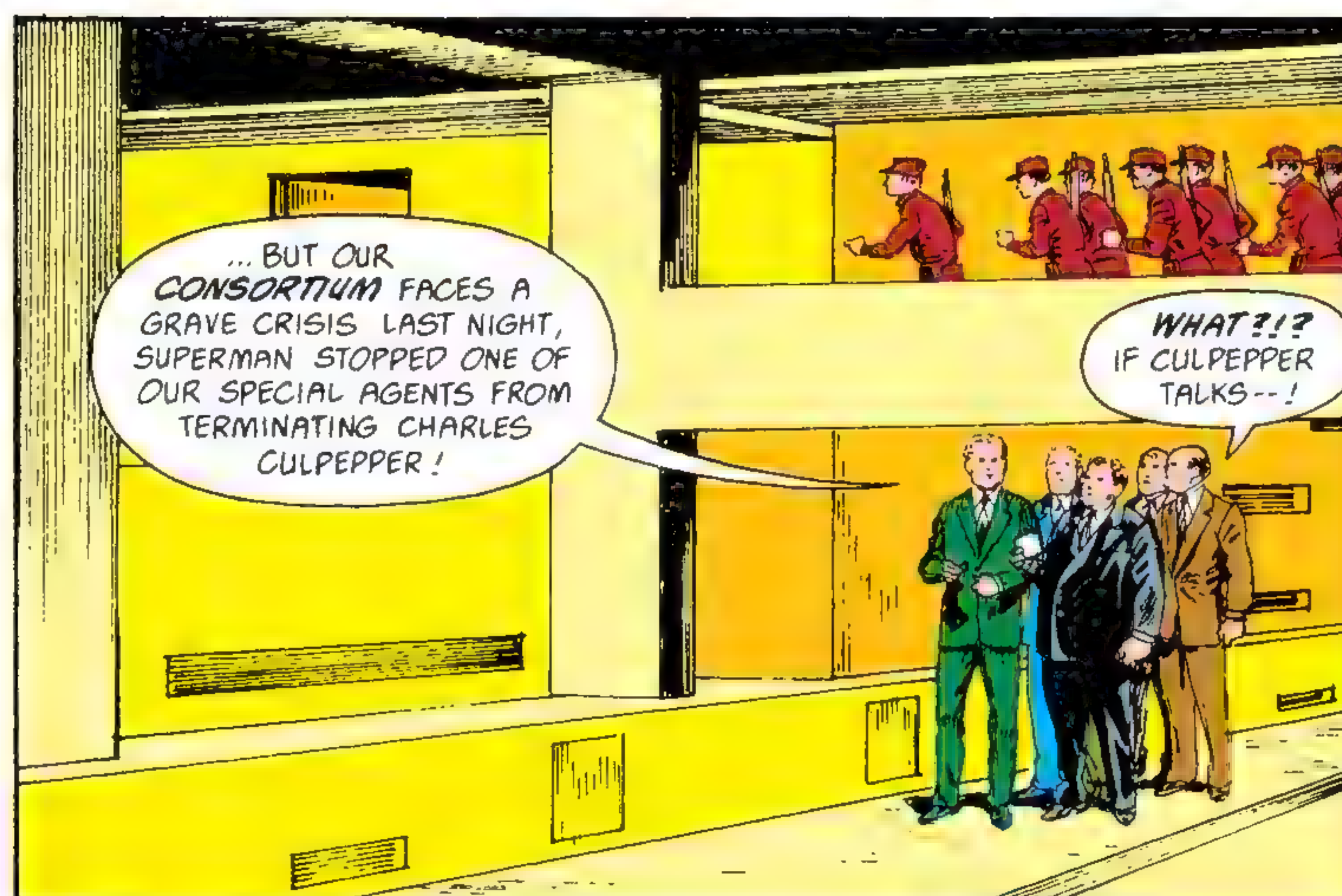
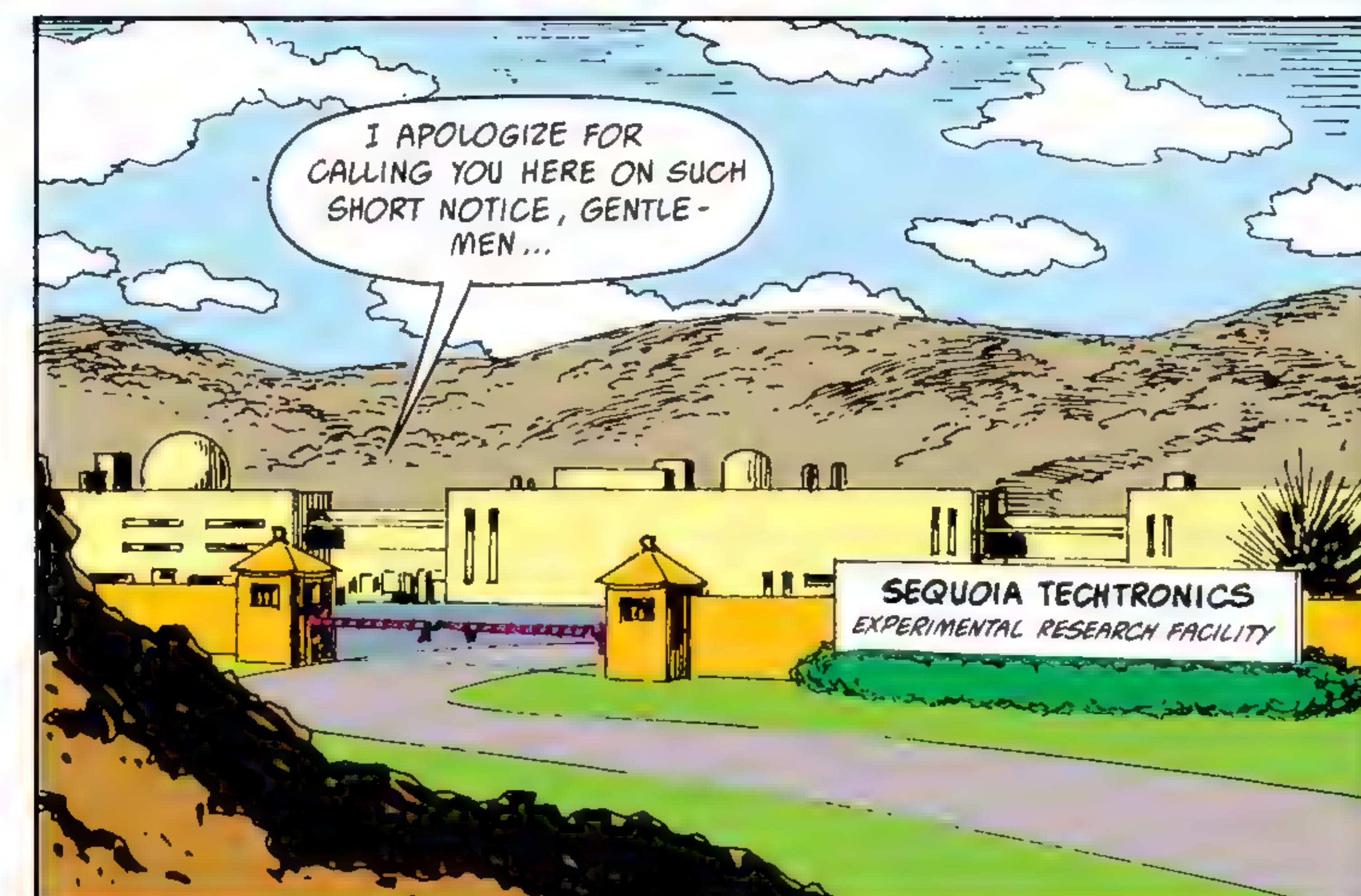
CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!

"SEEDS of DOUBT"

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR

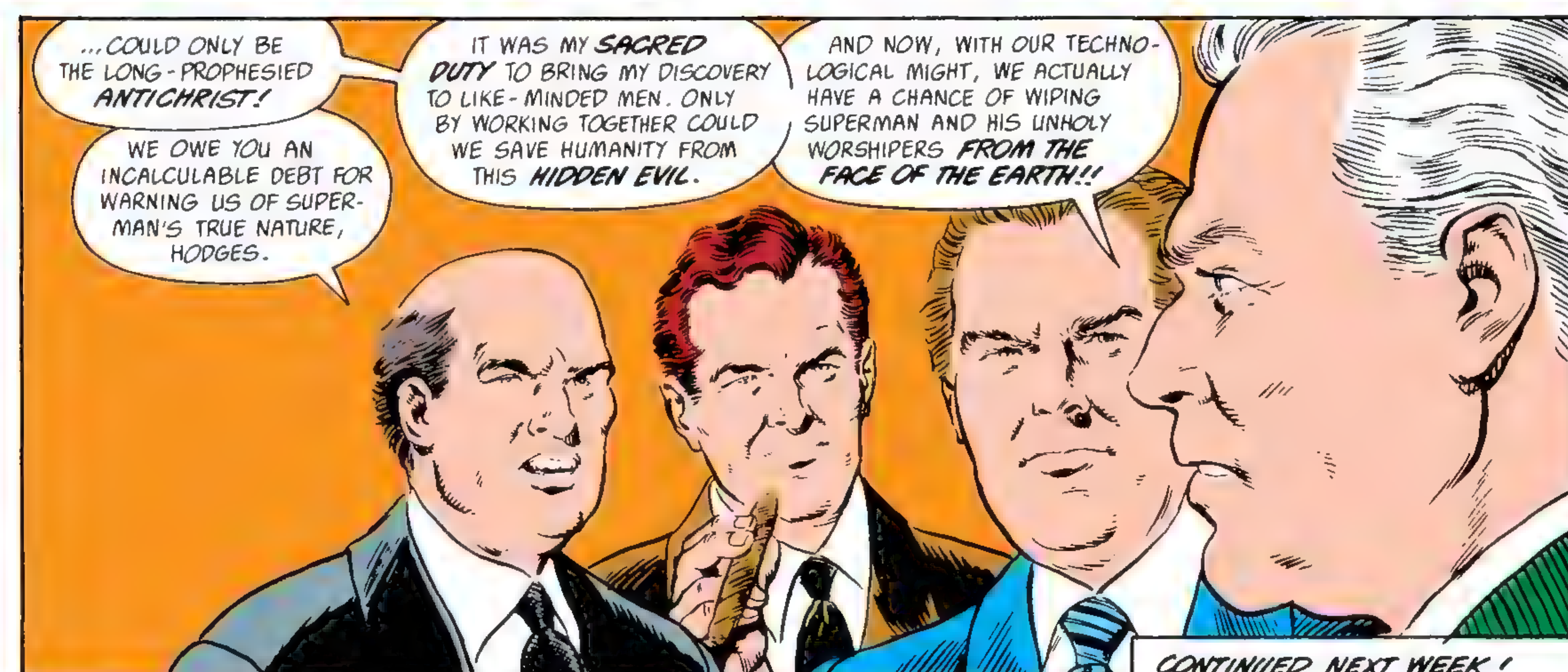
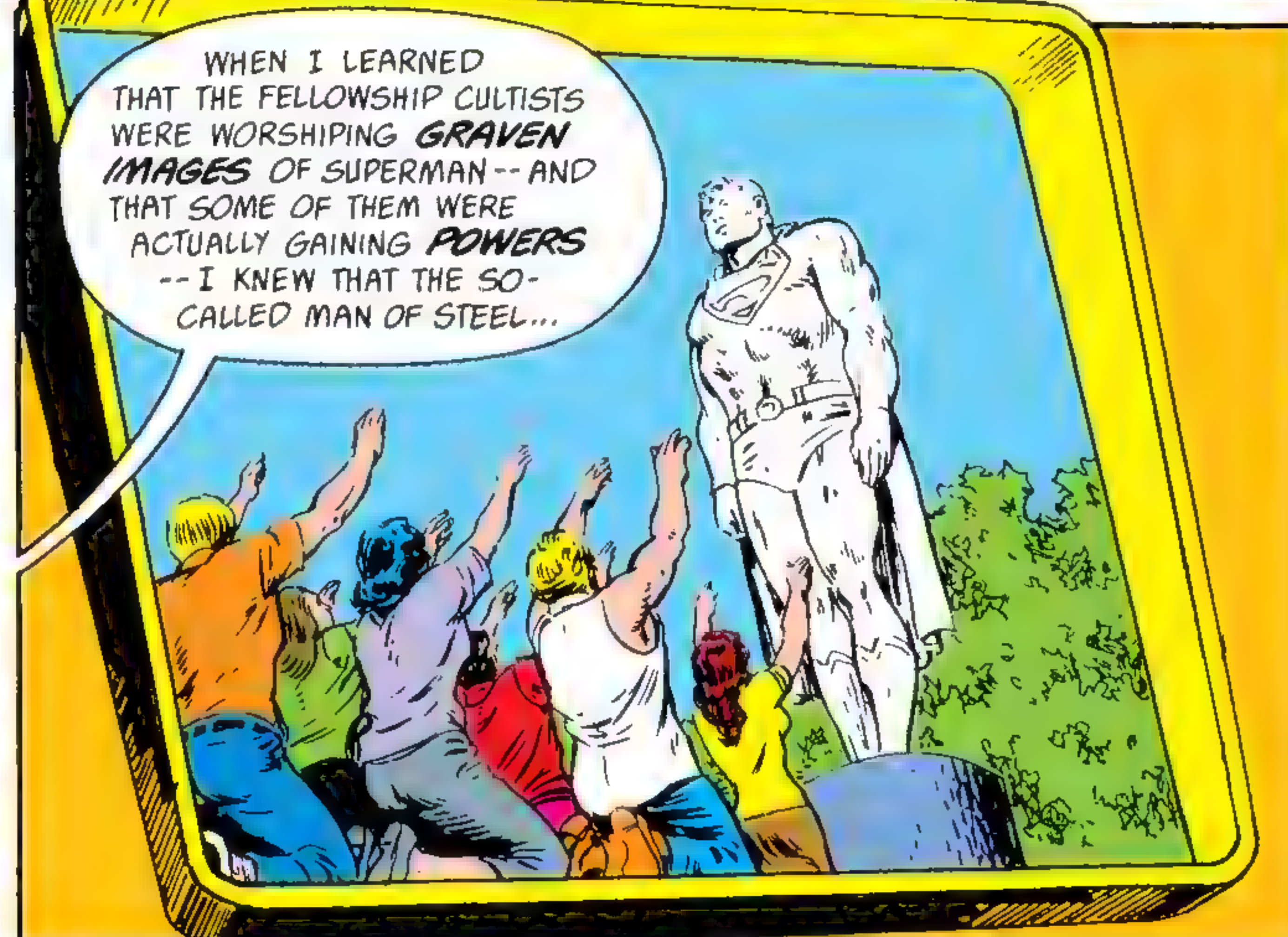
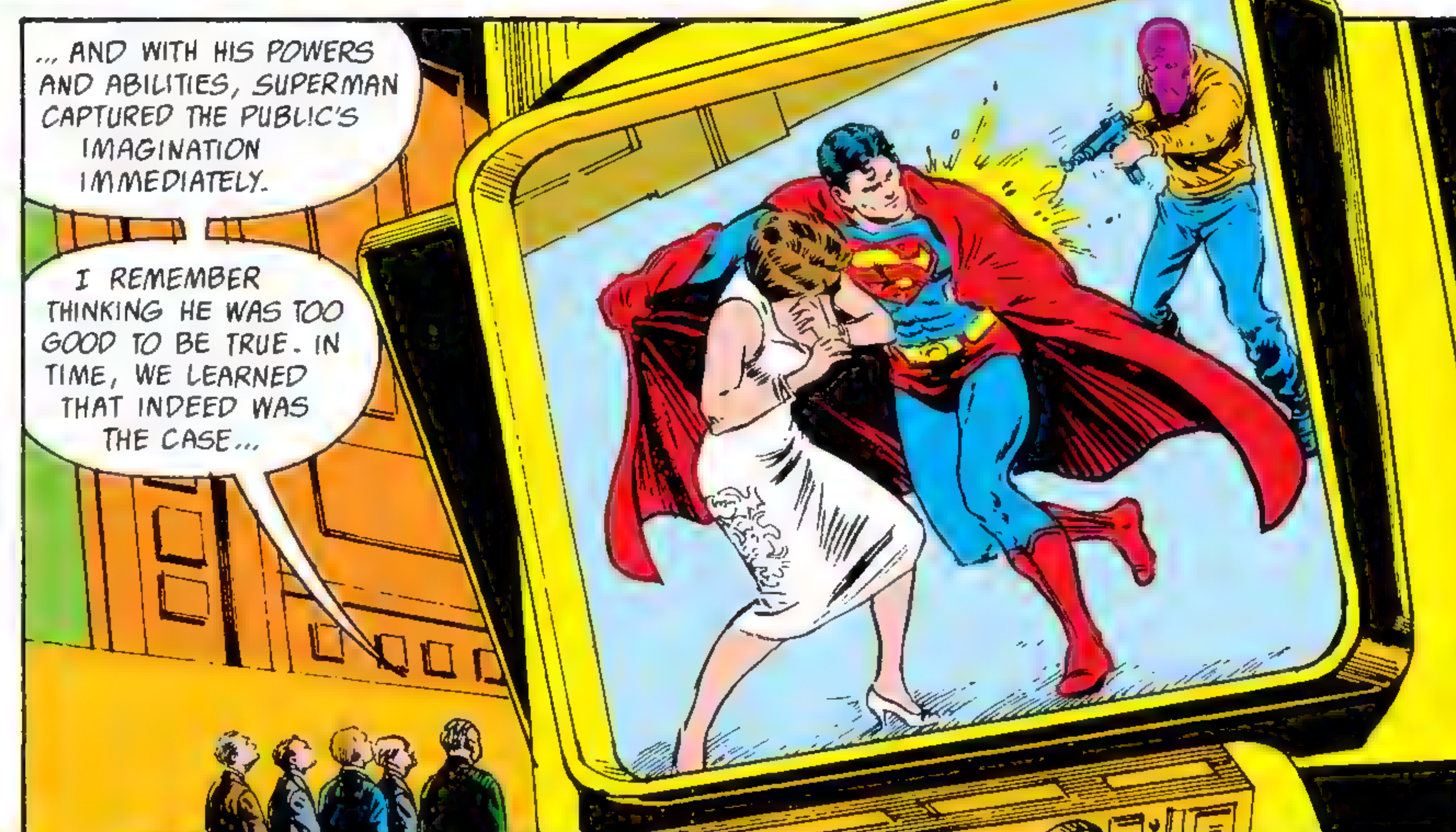
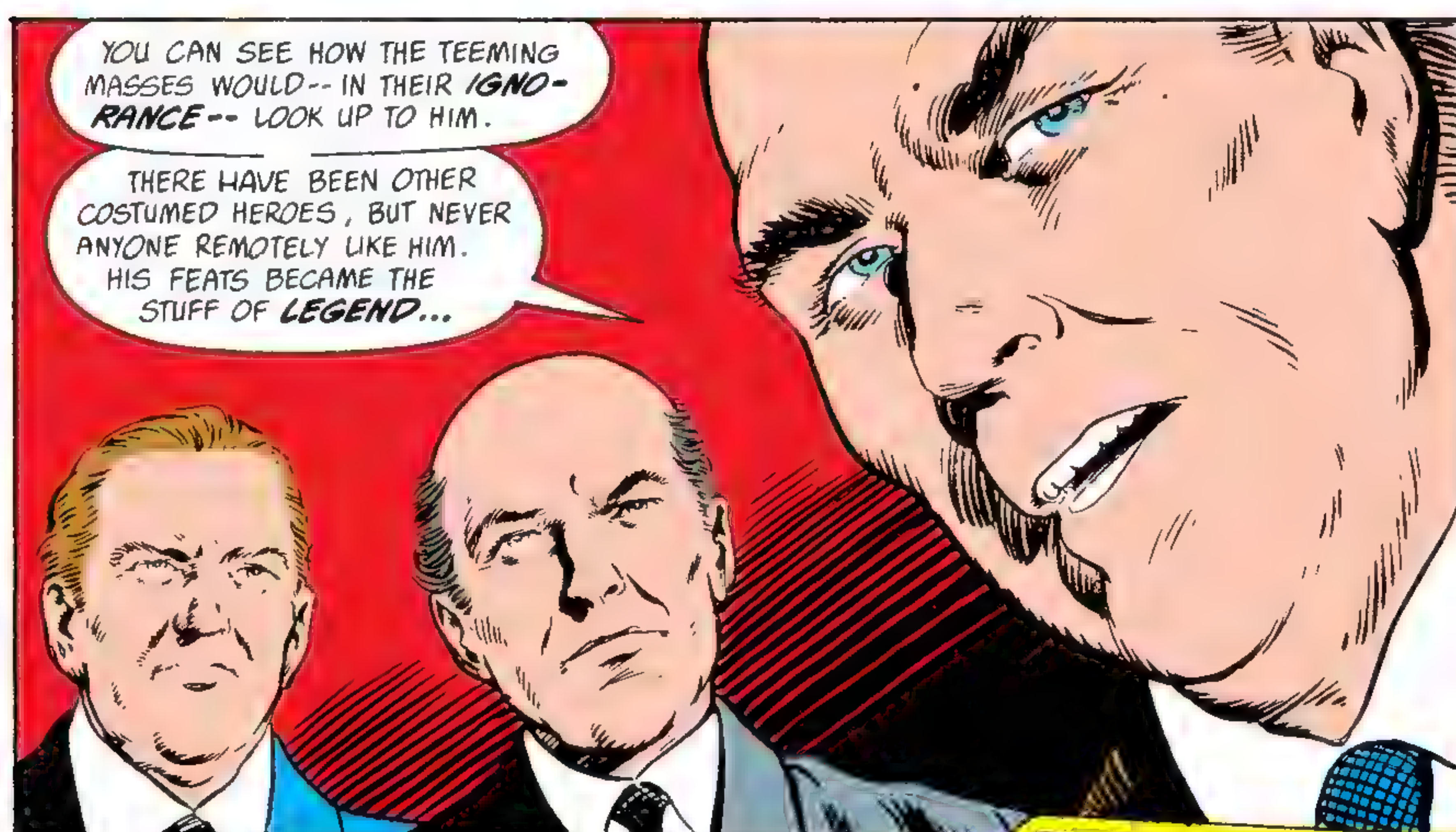
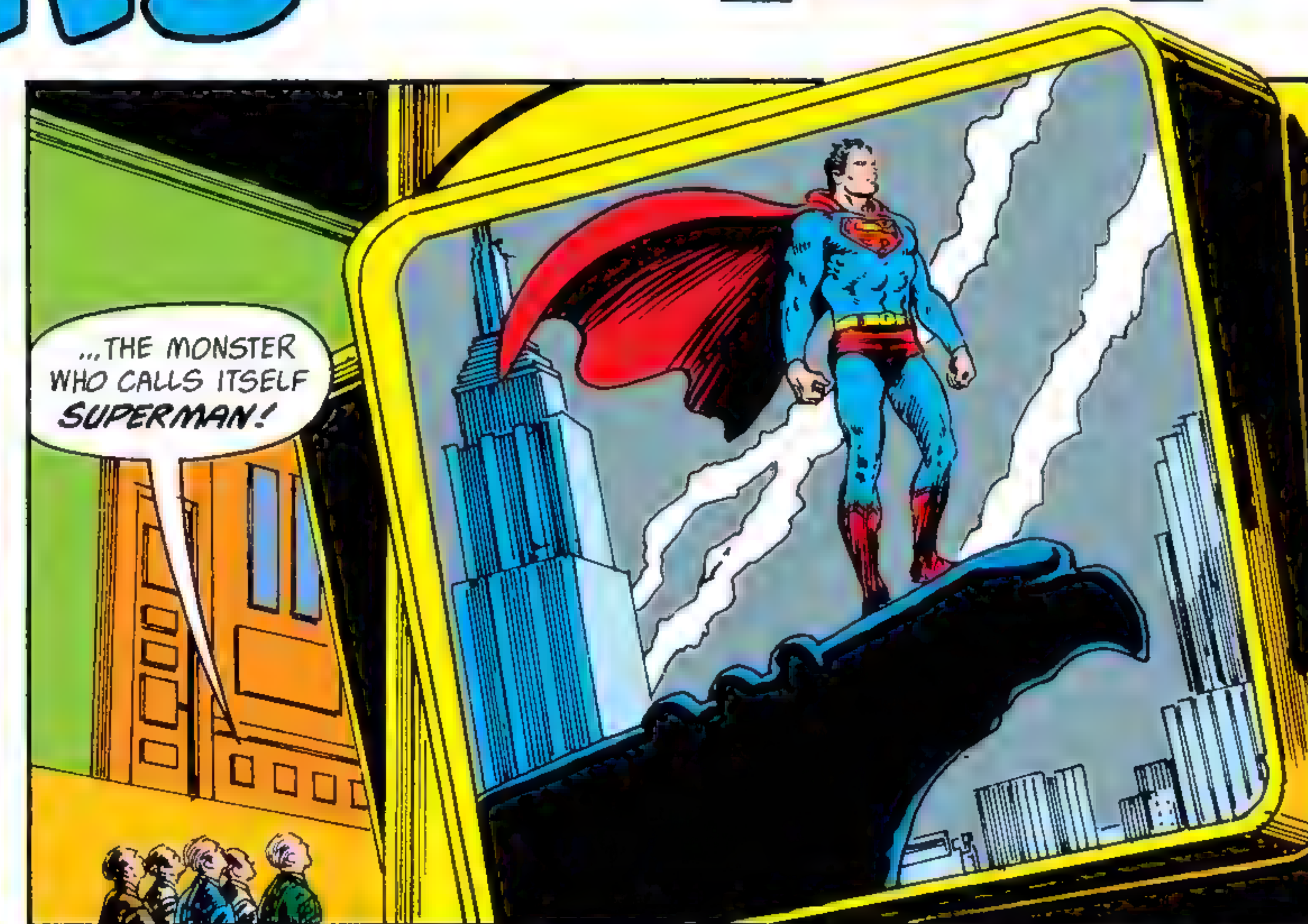
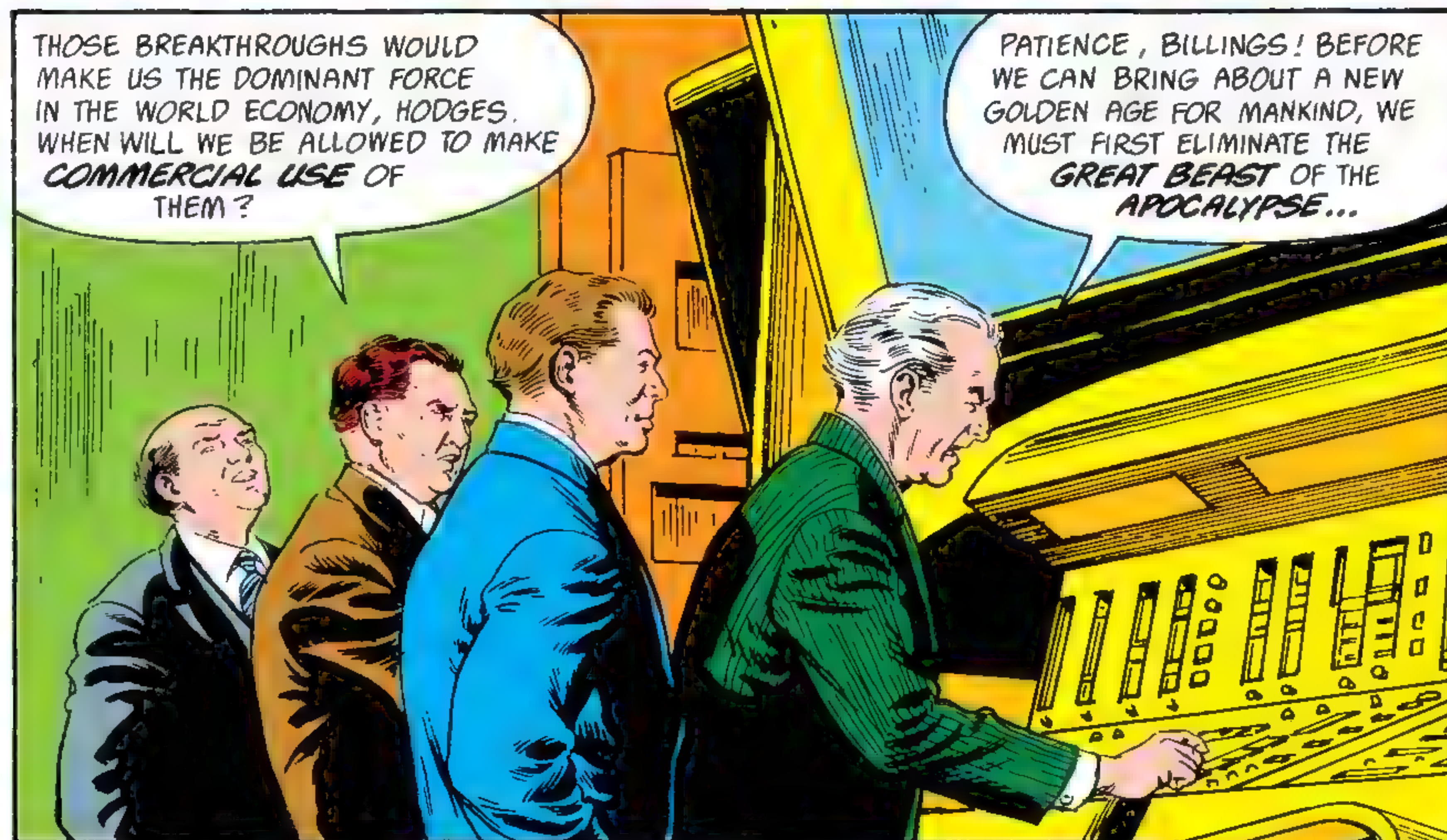
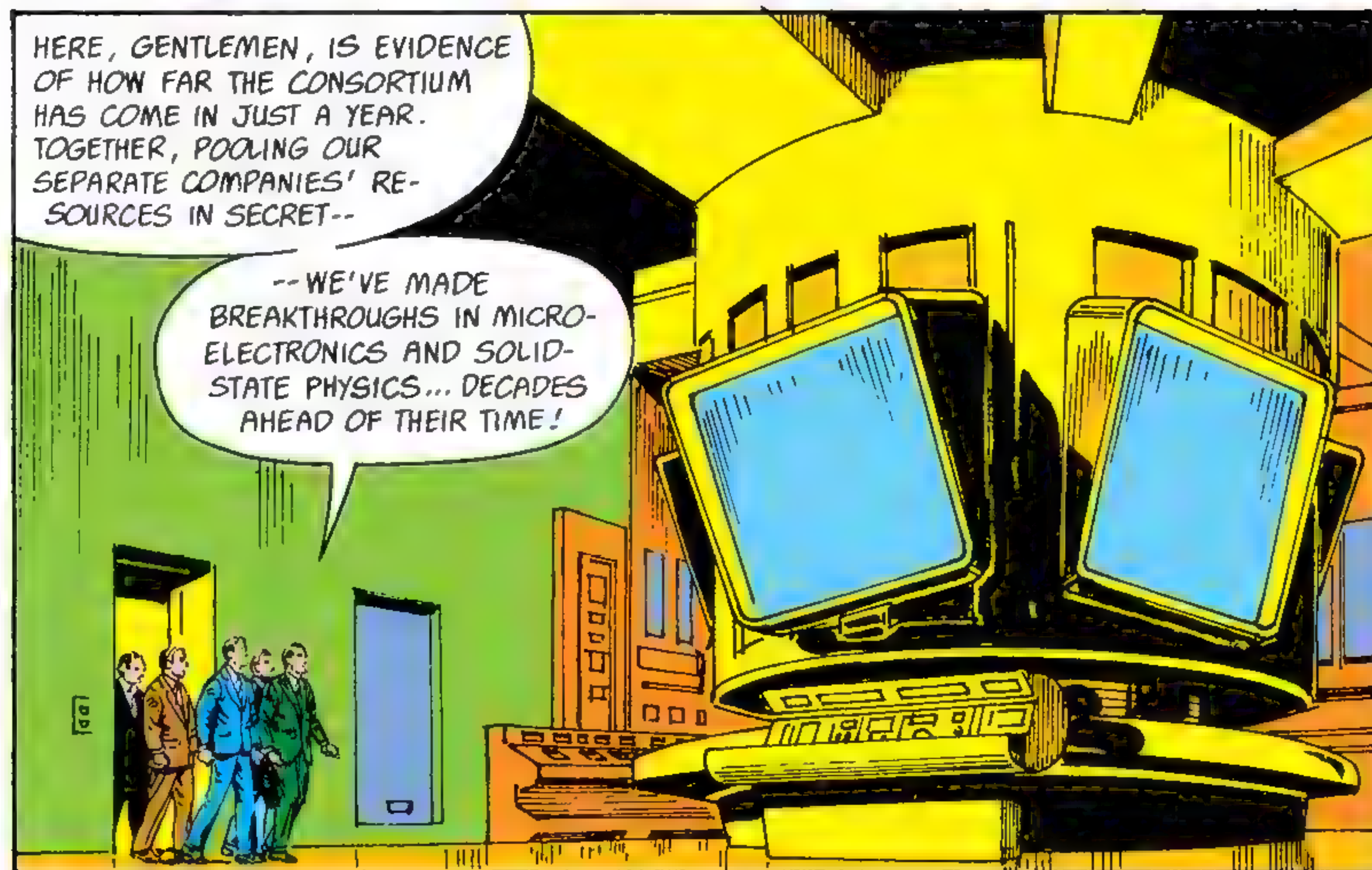


MEANWHILE, THREE THOUSAND MILES TO THE WEST...



"REVE LATIONS"

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



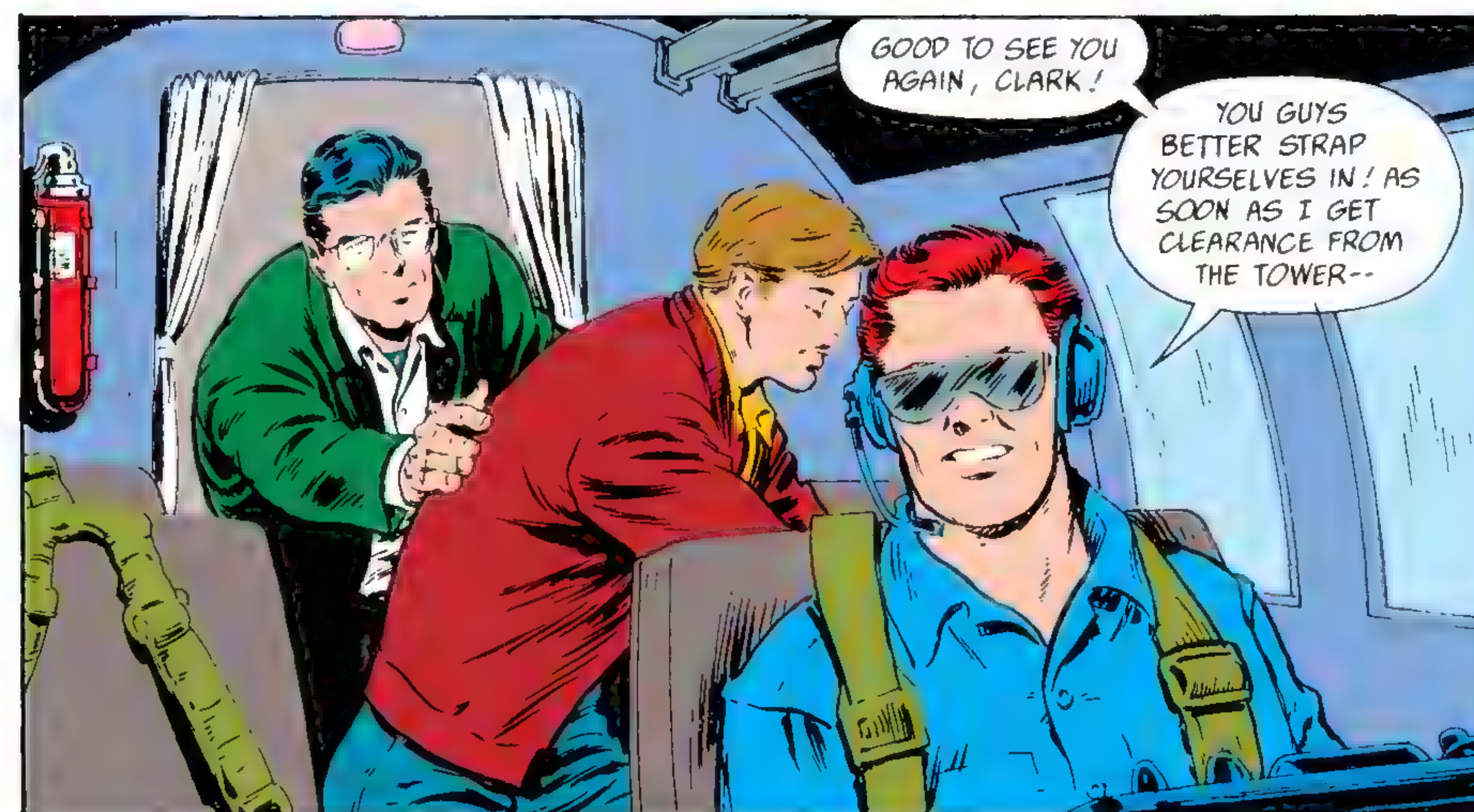
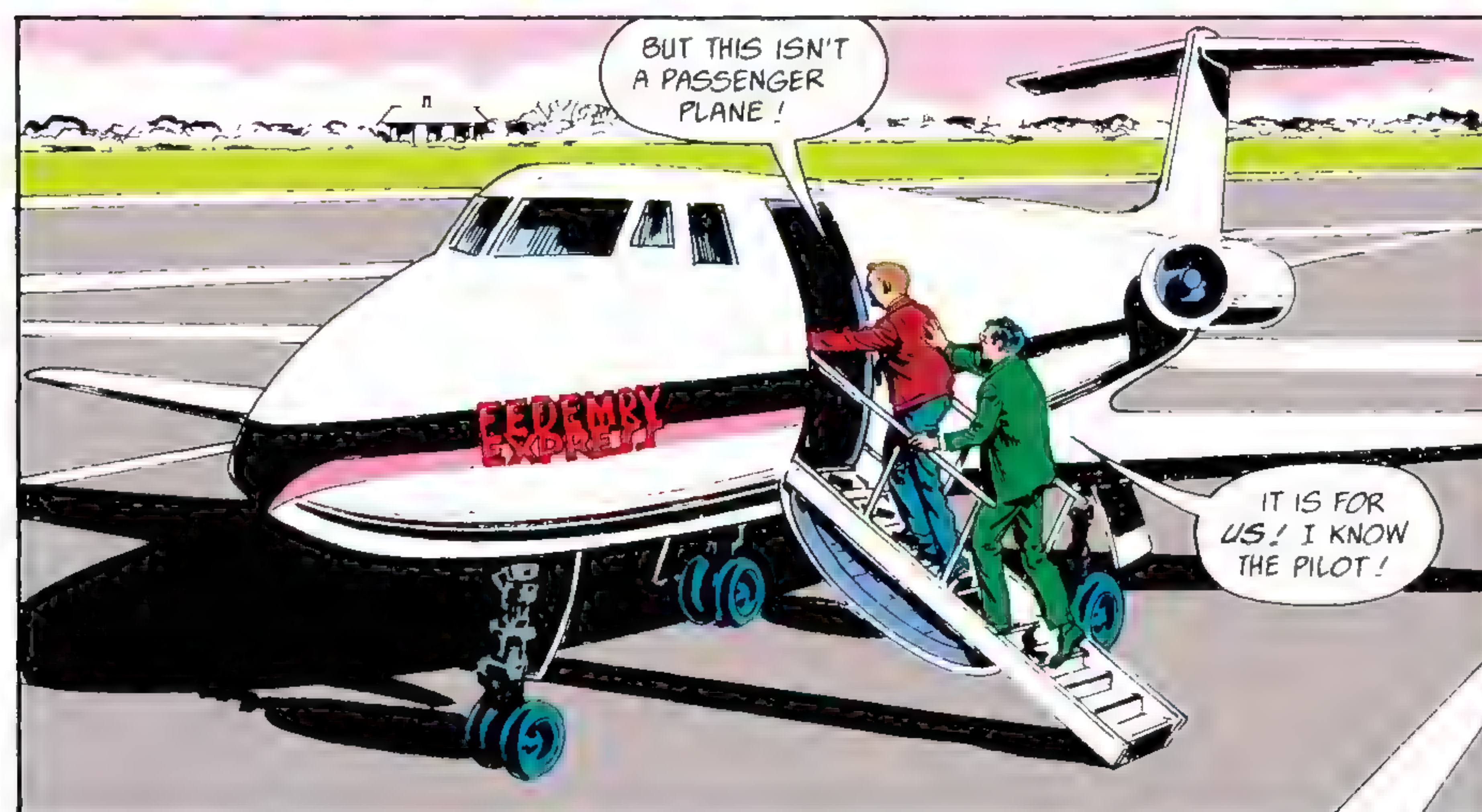
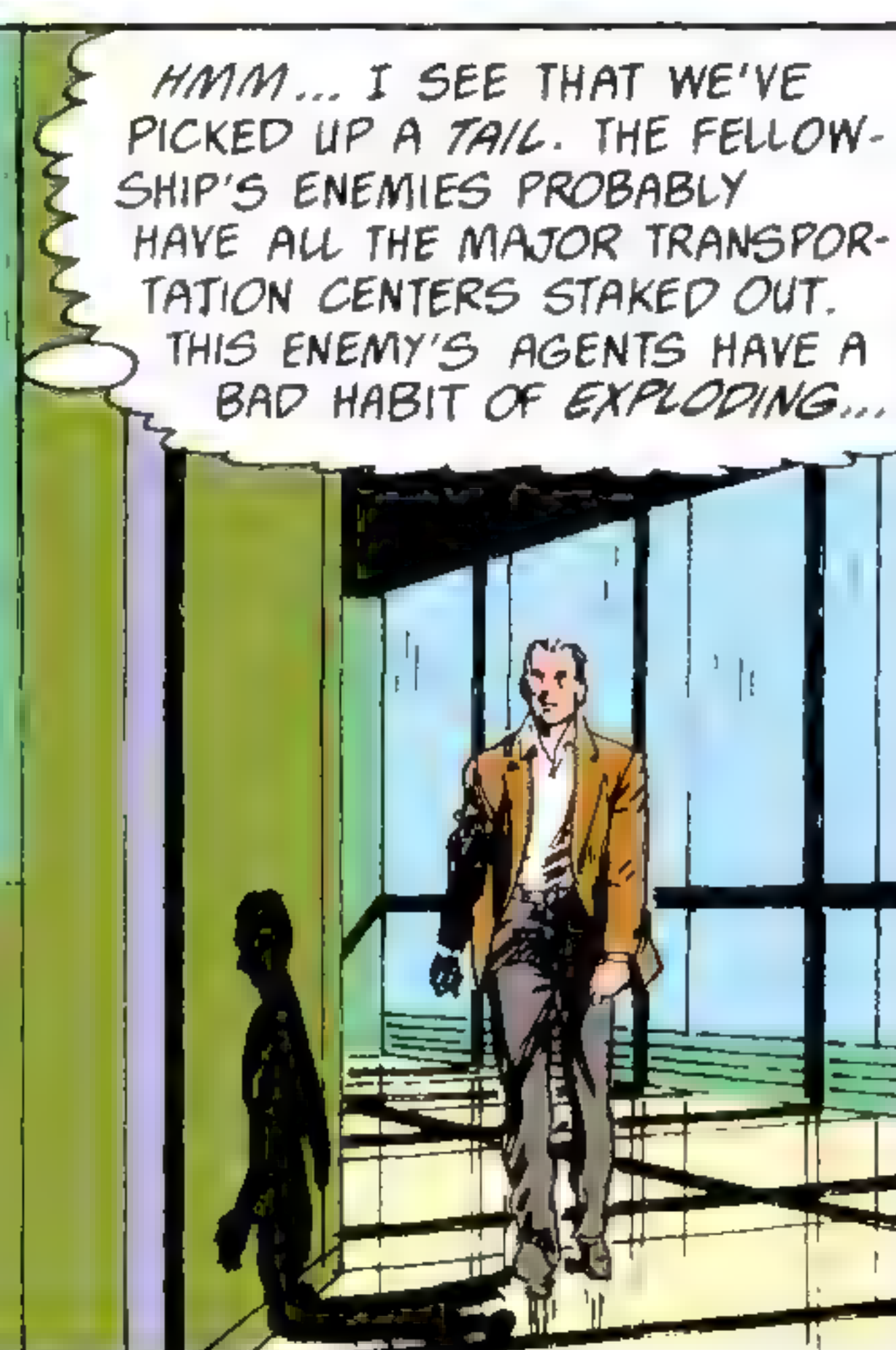
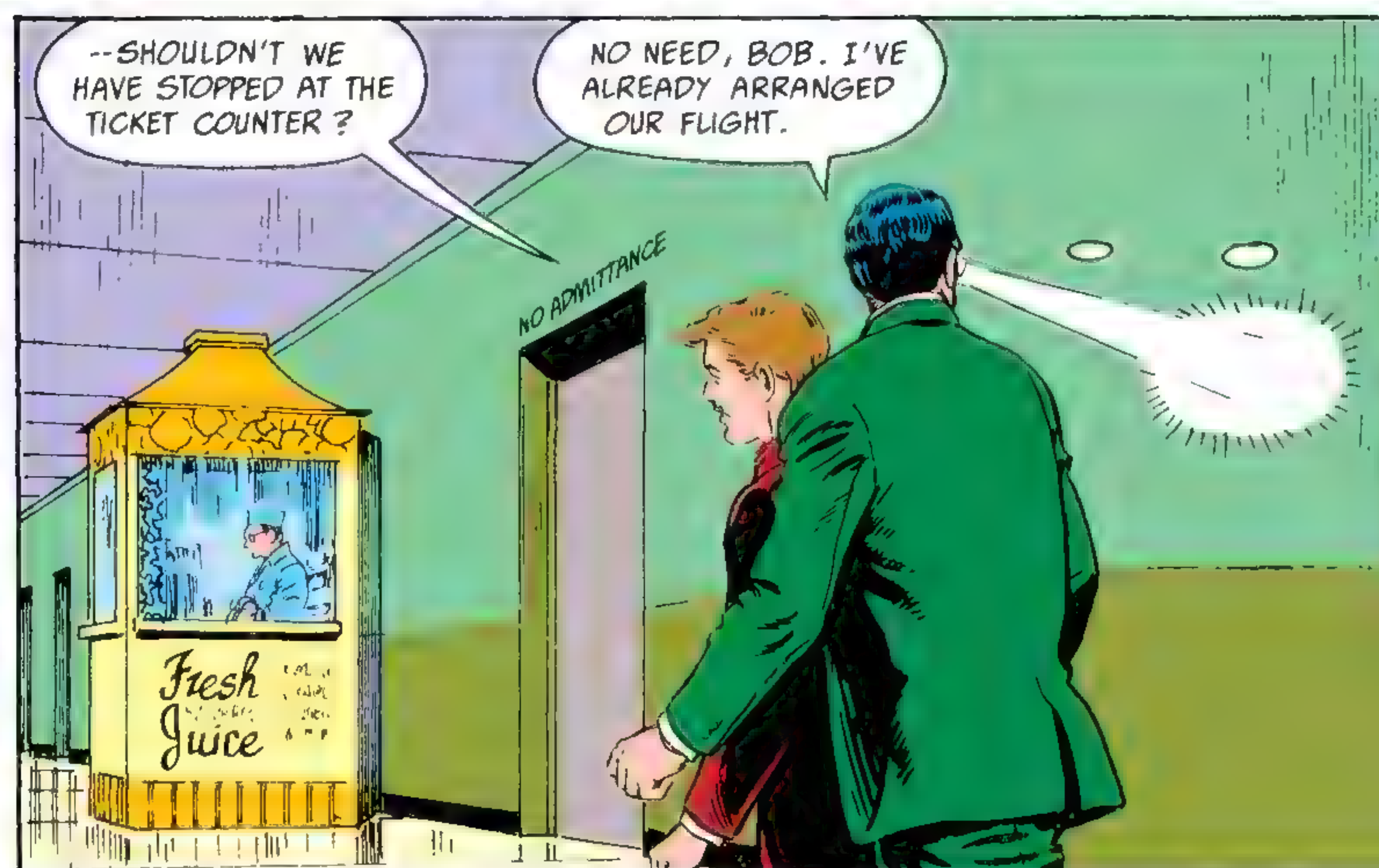
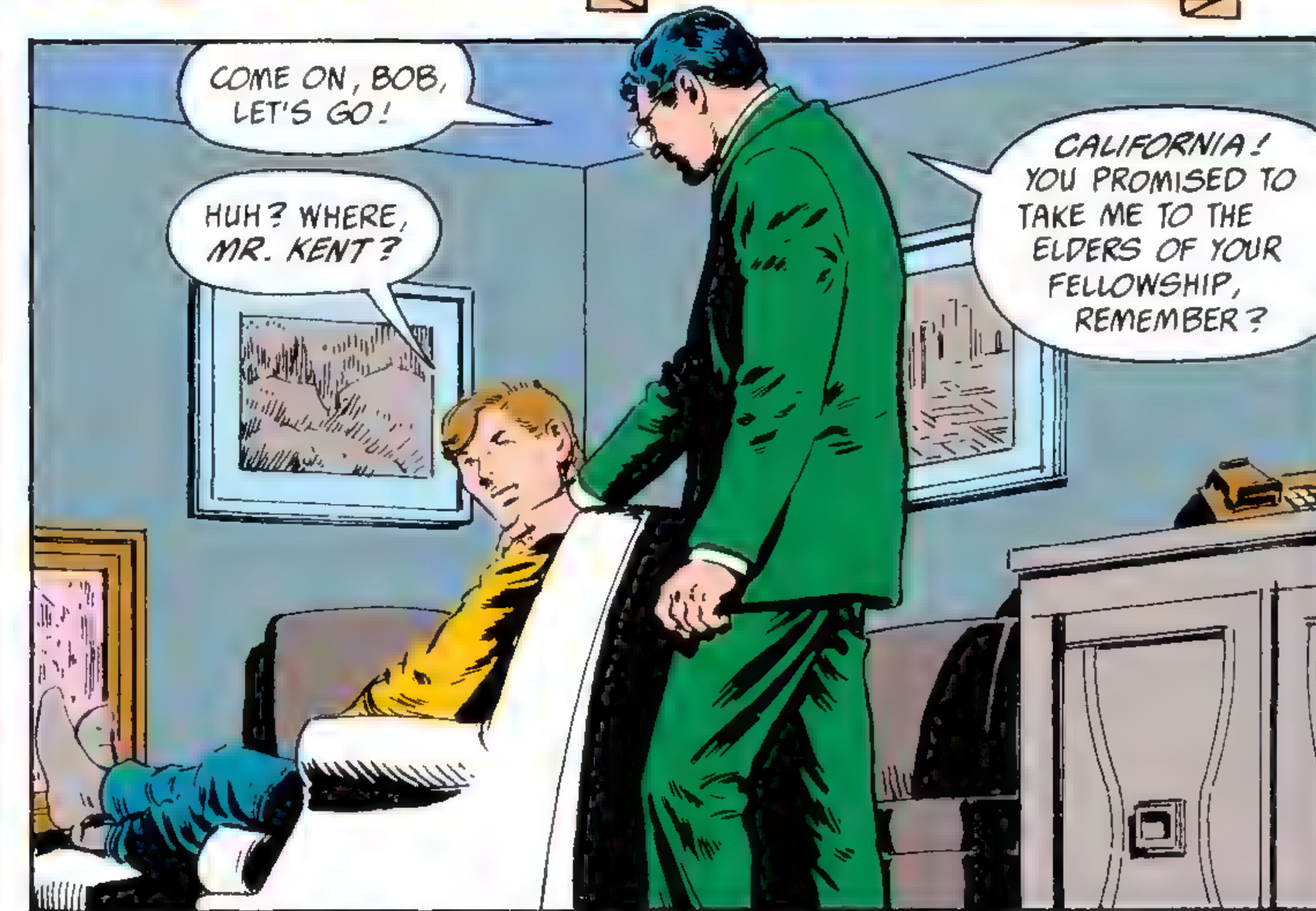
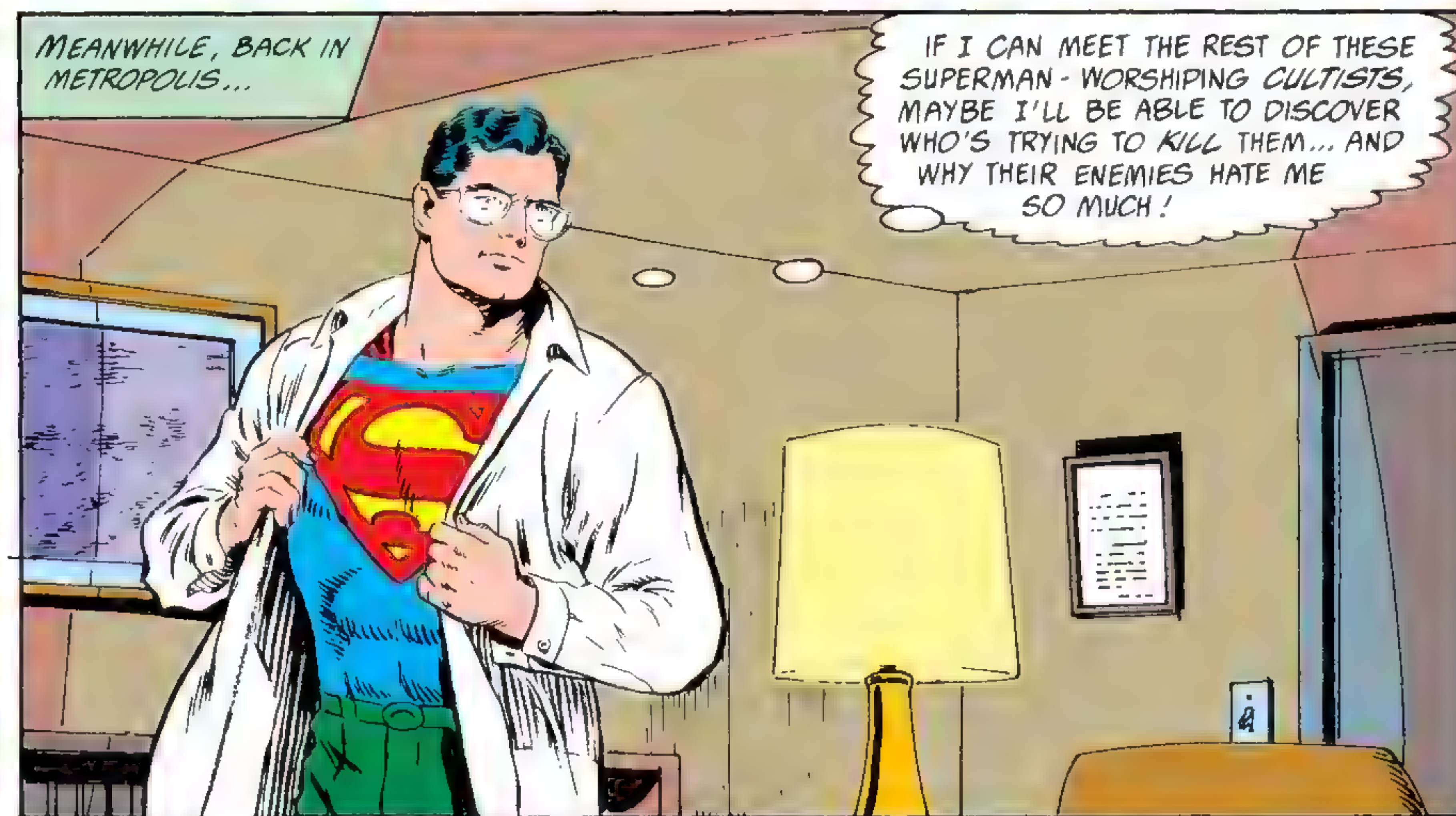
CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!

SUPERMAN

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JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER

"PIN THE TAIL..."

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



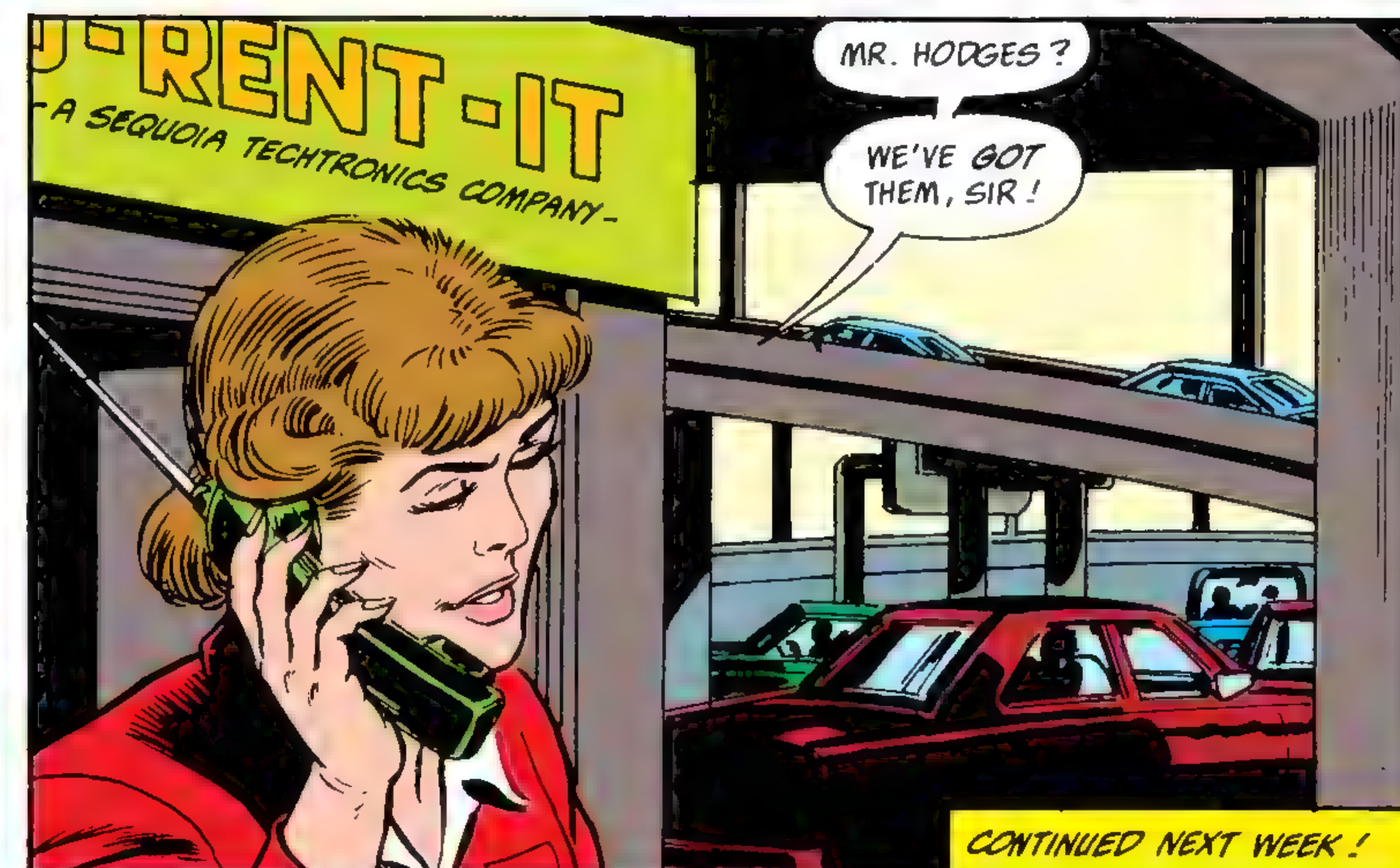
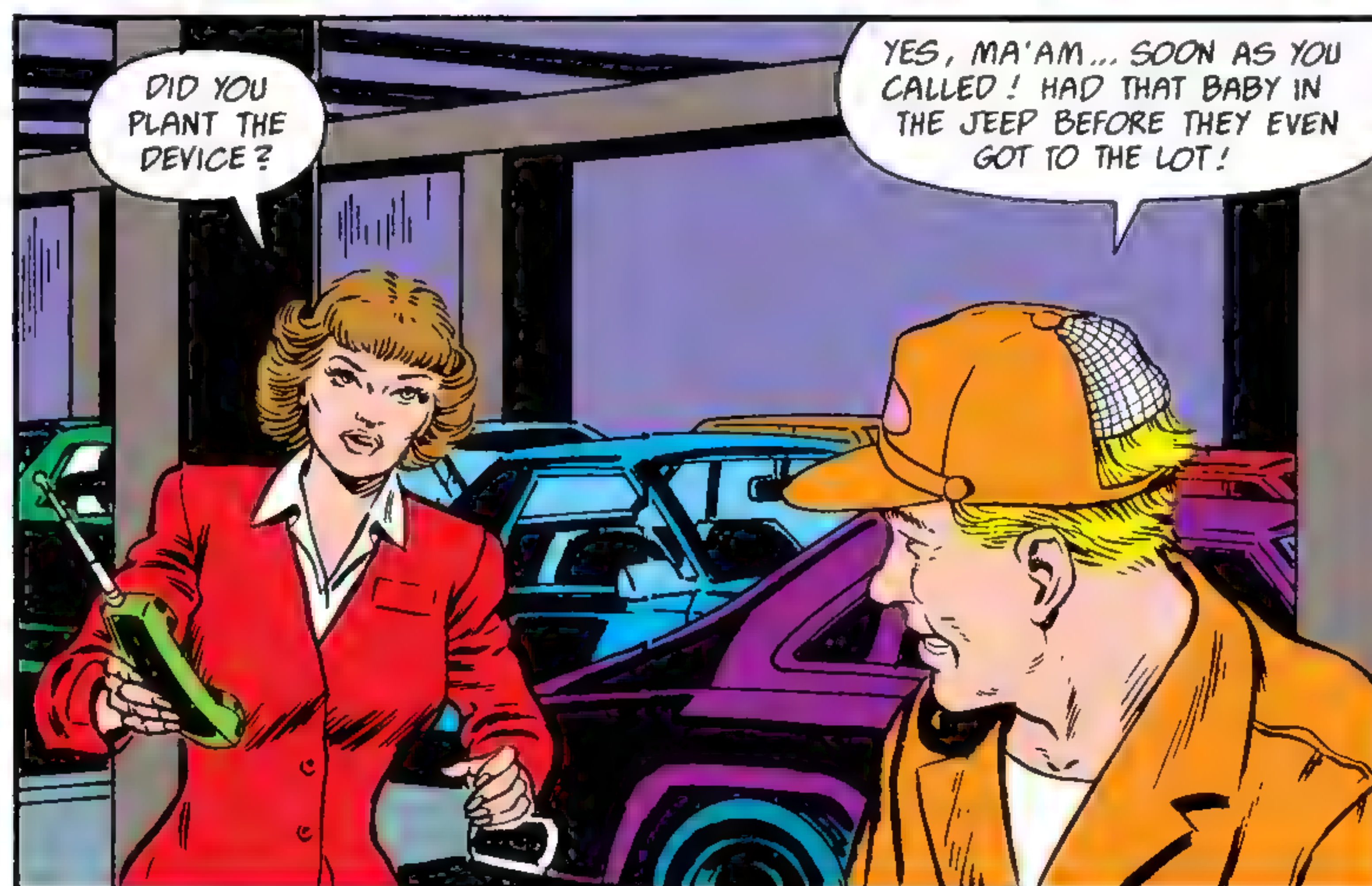
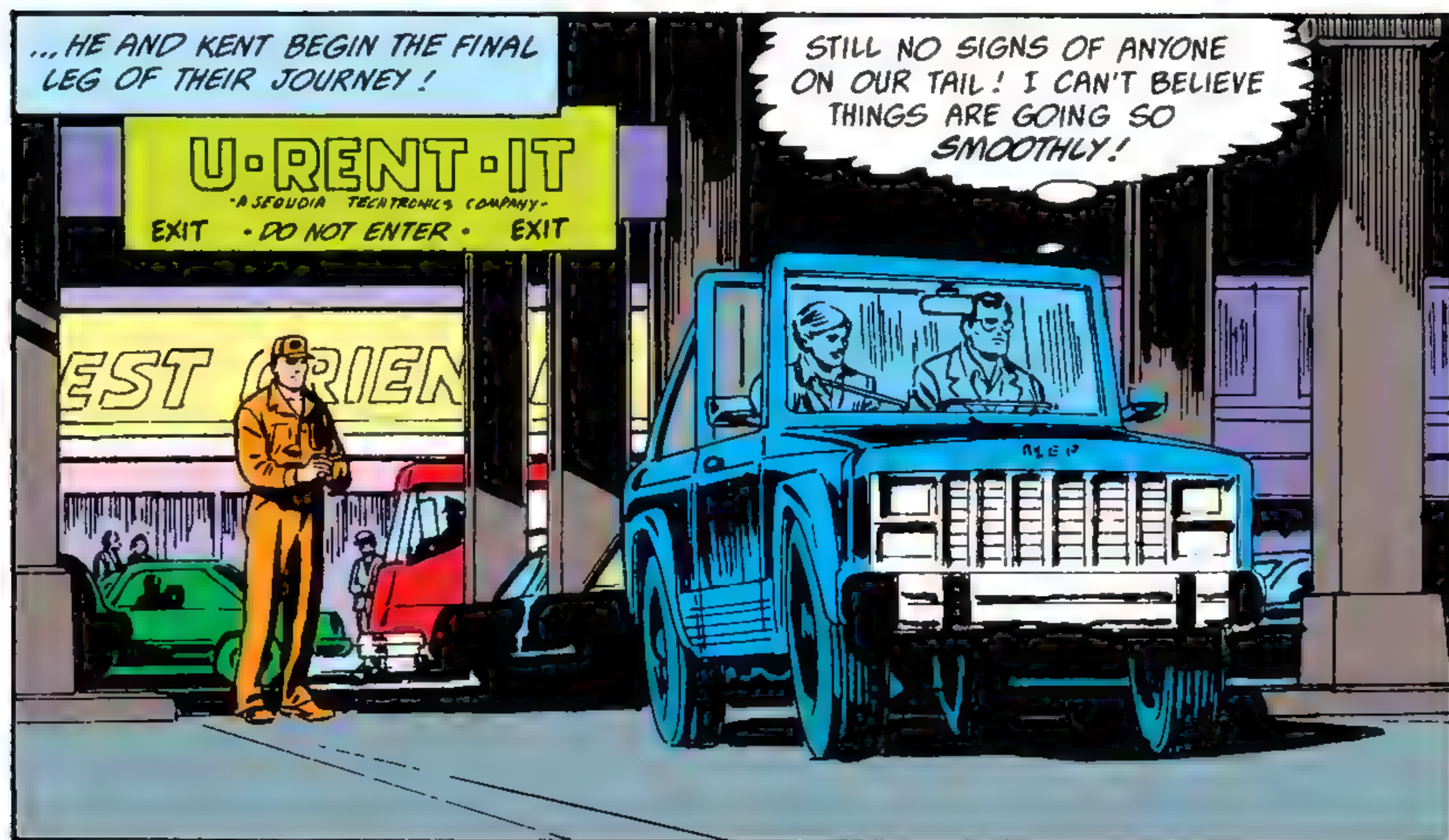
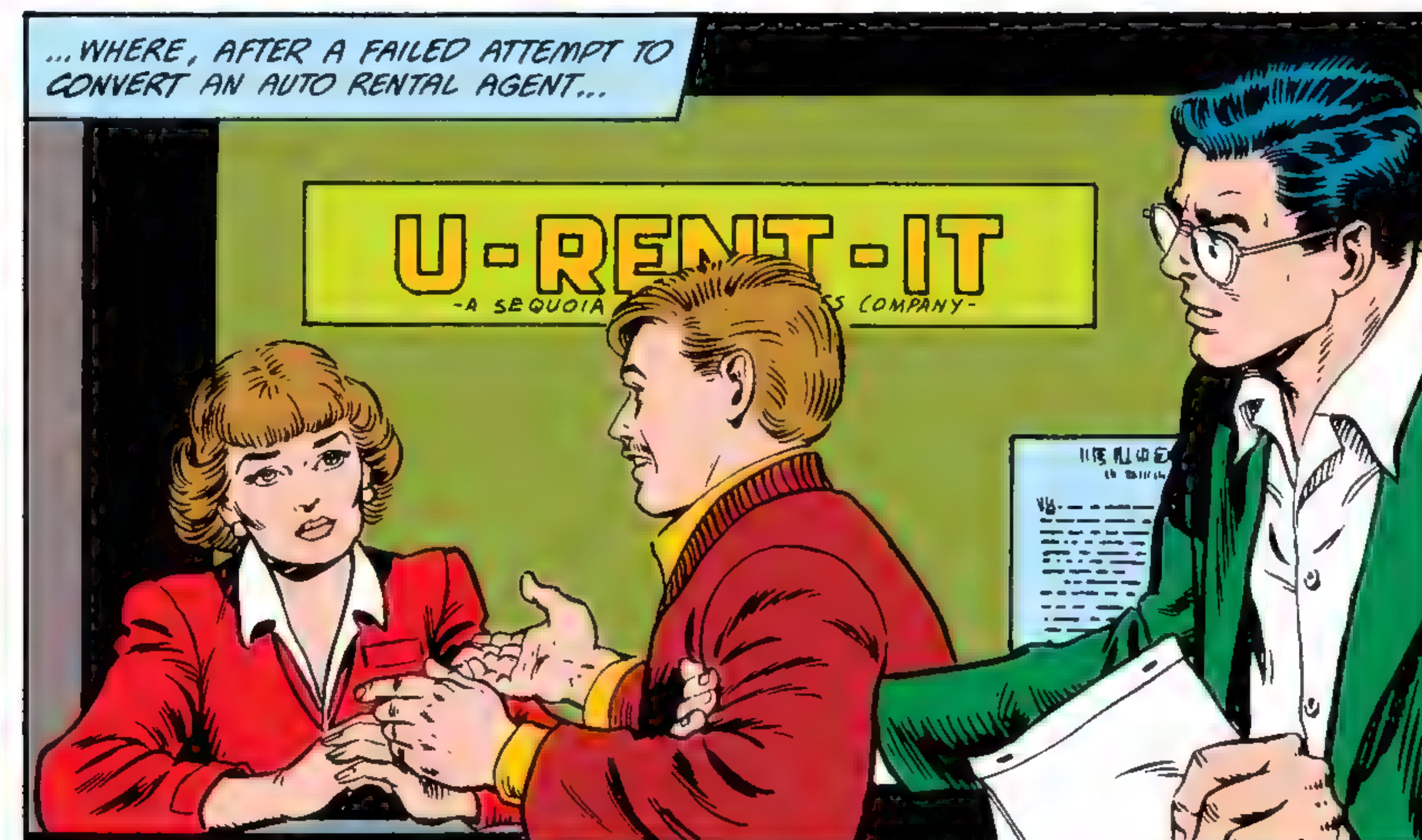
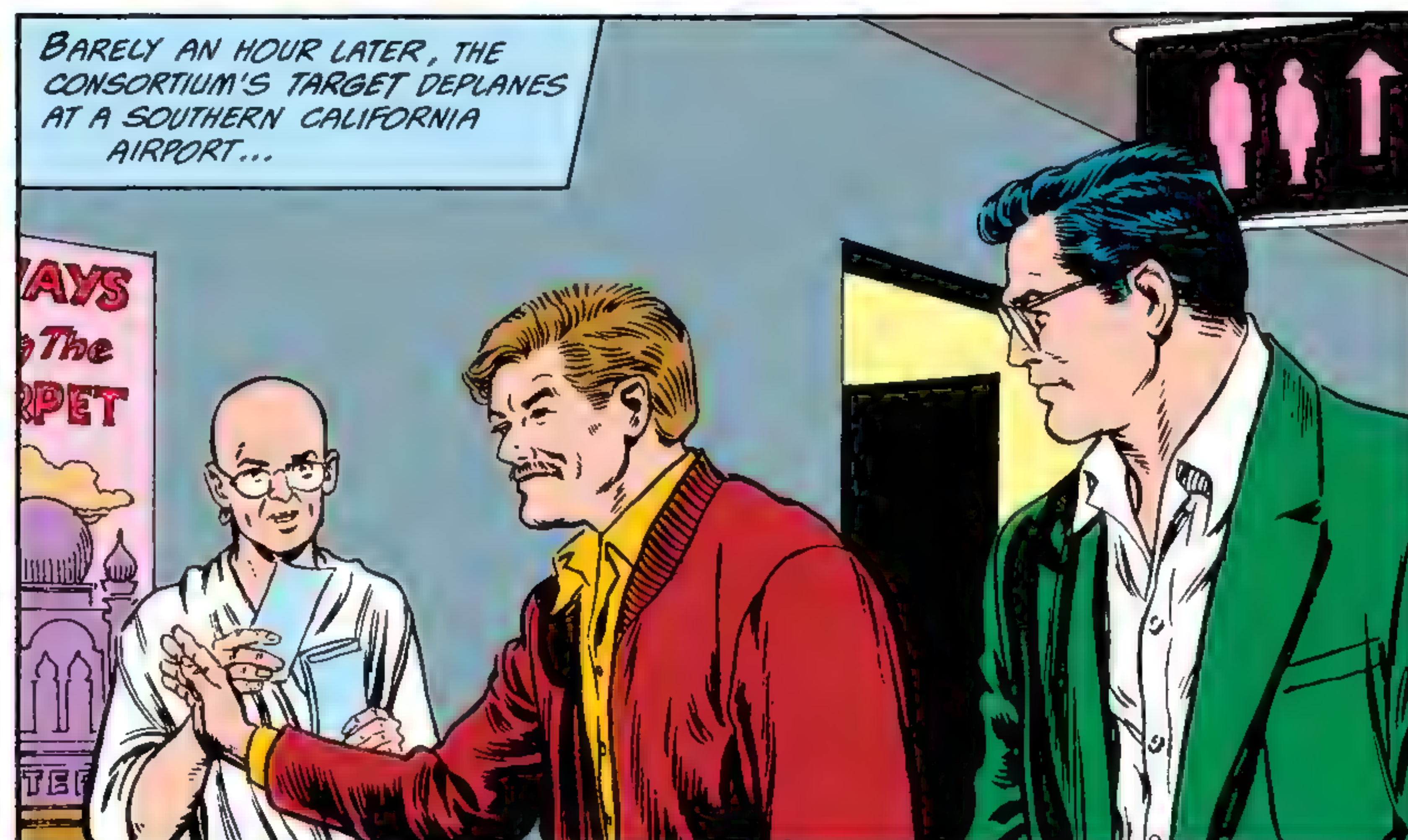
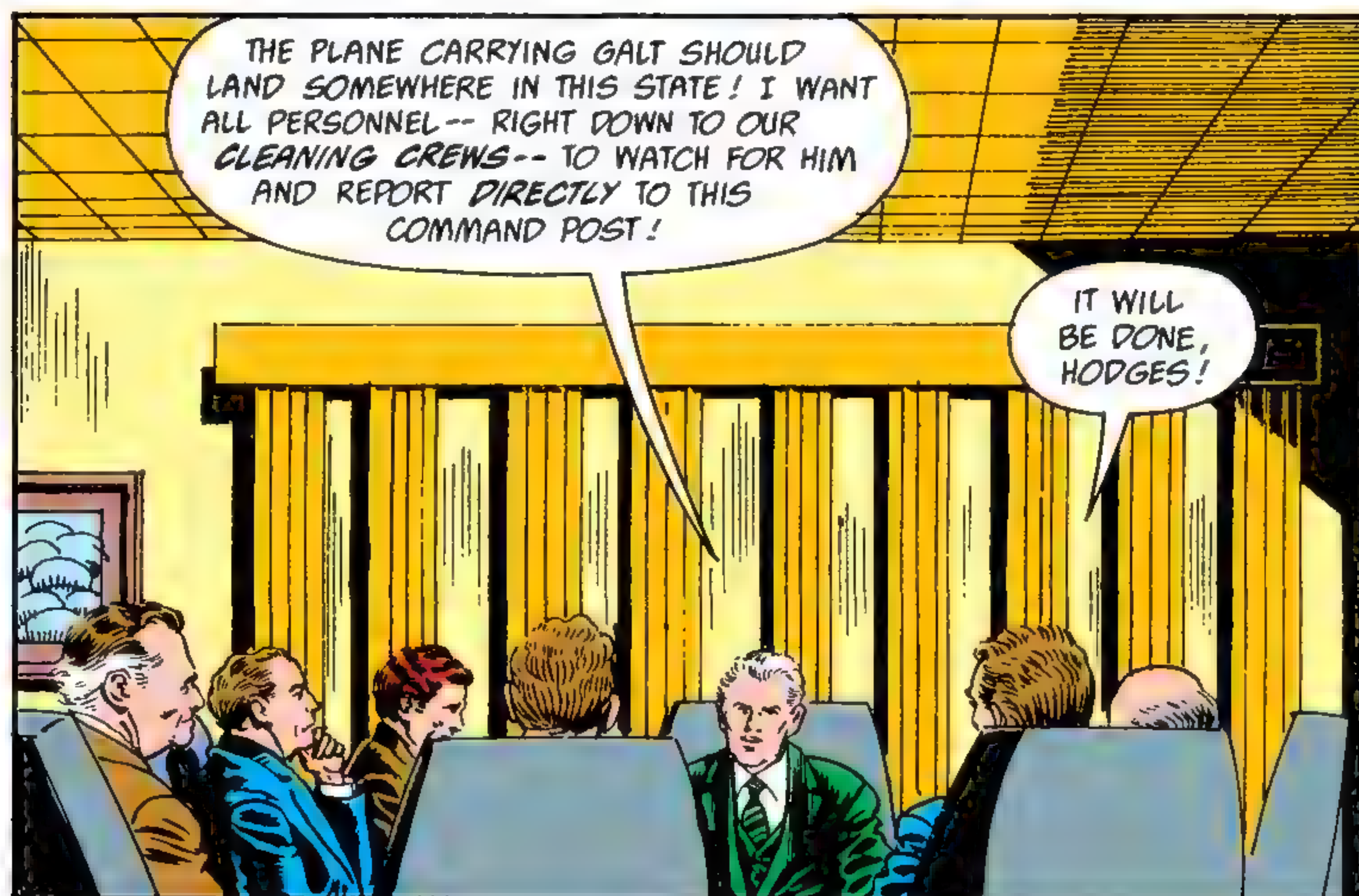
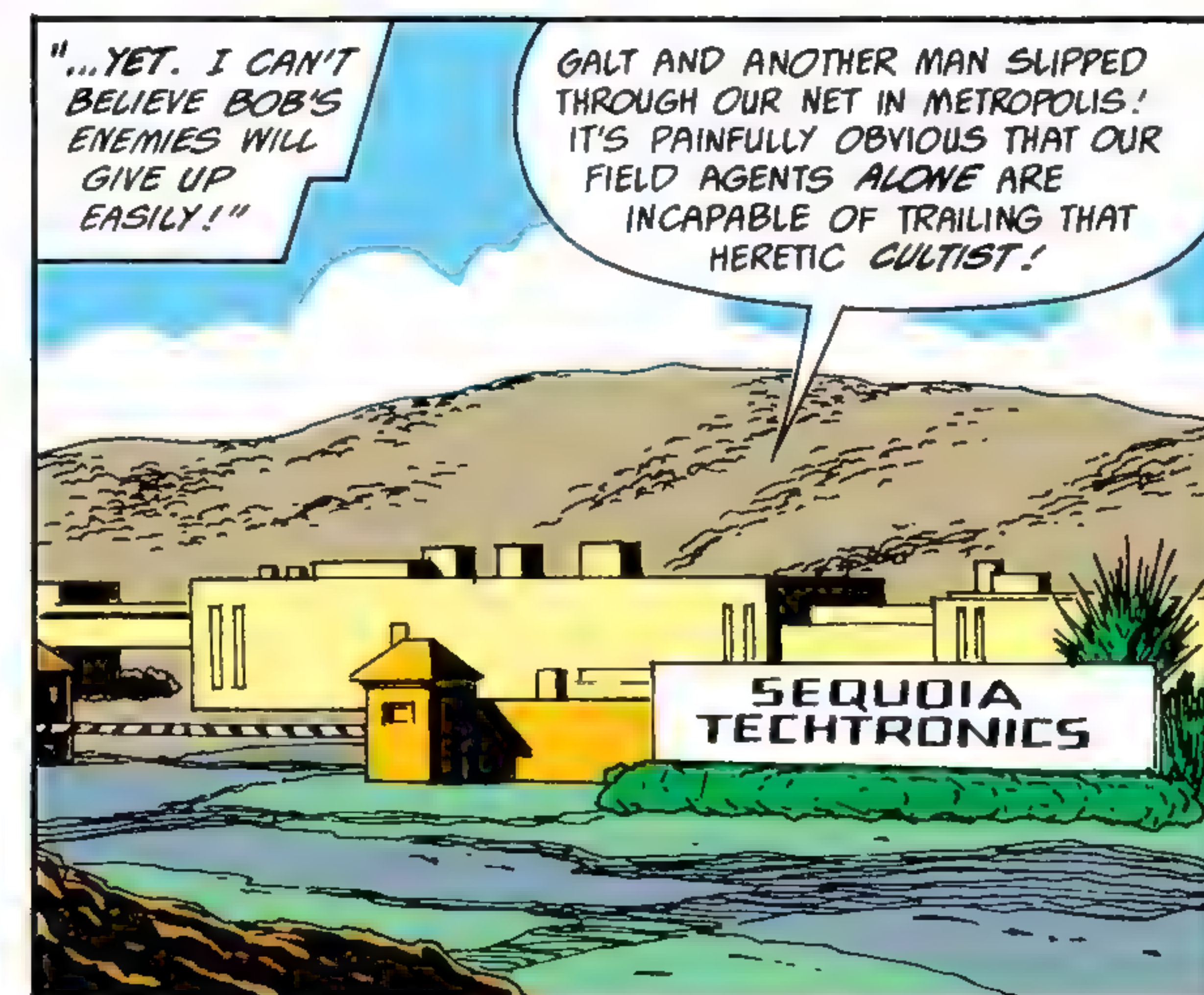
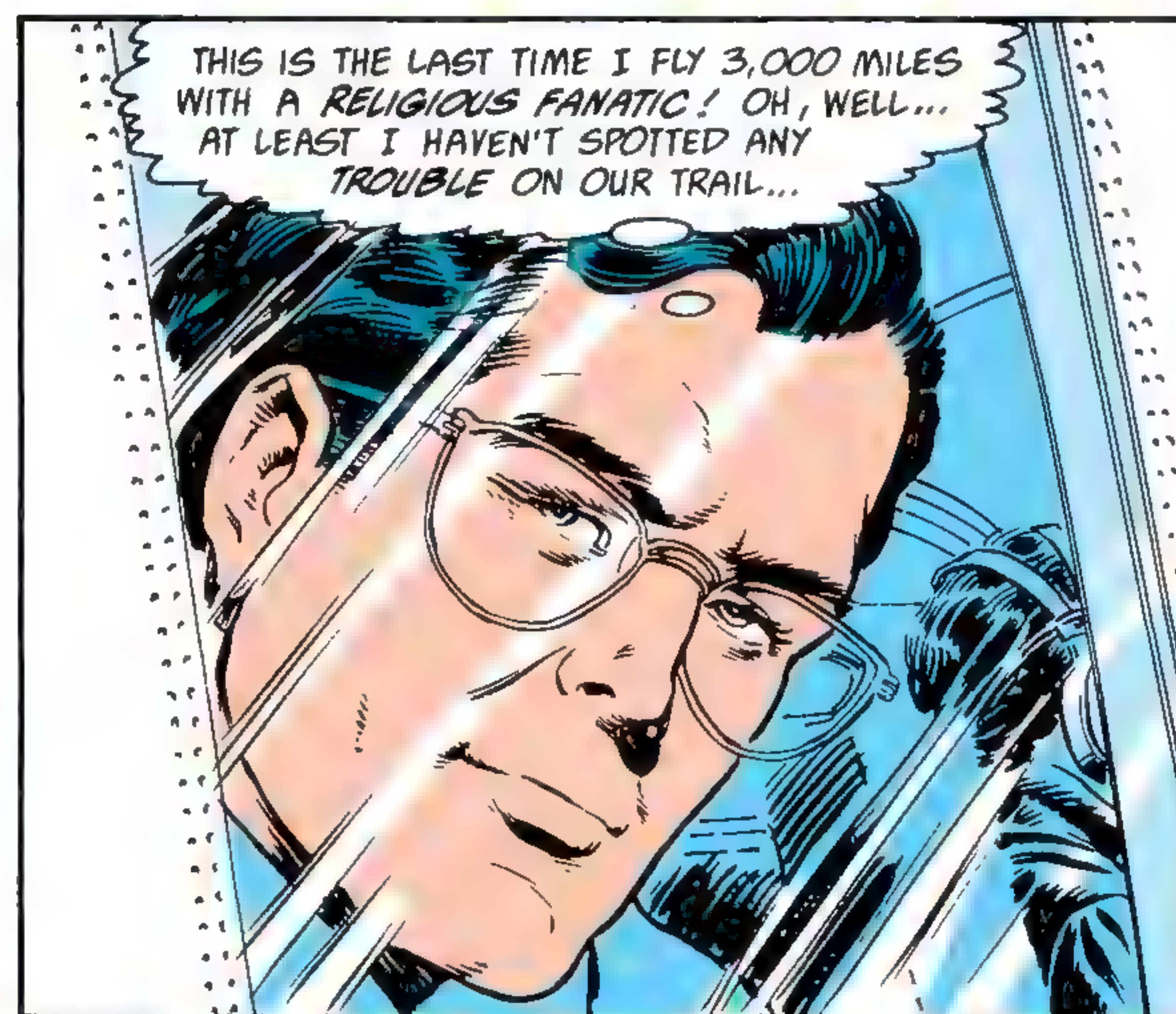
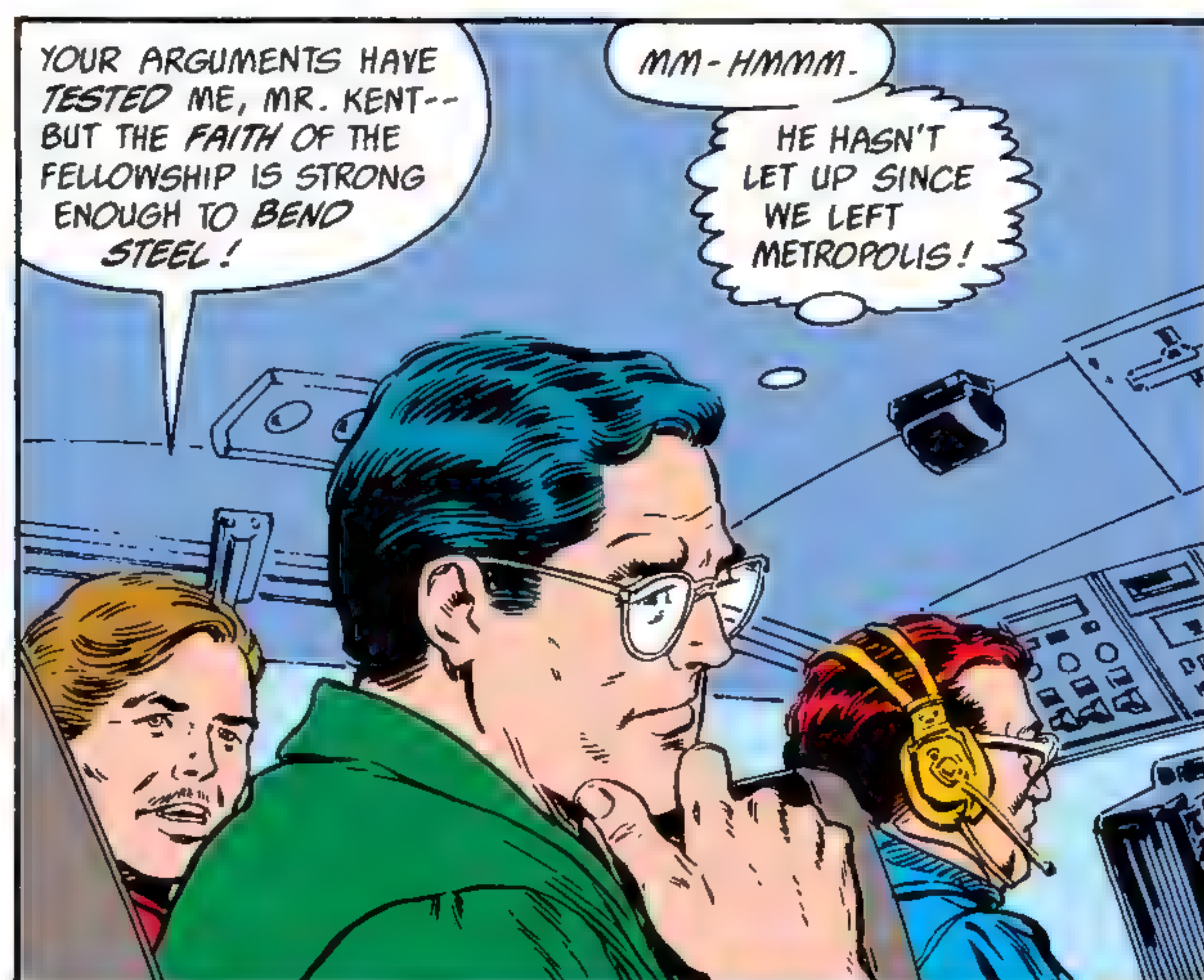
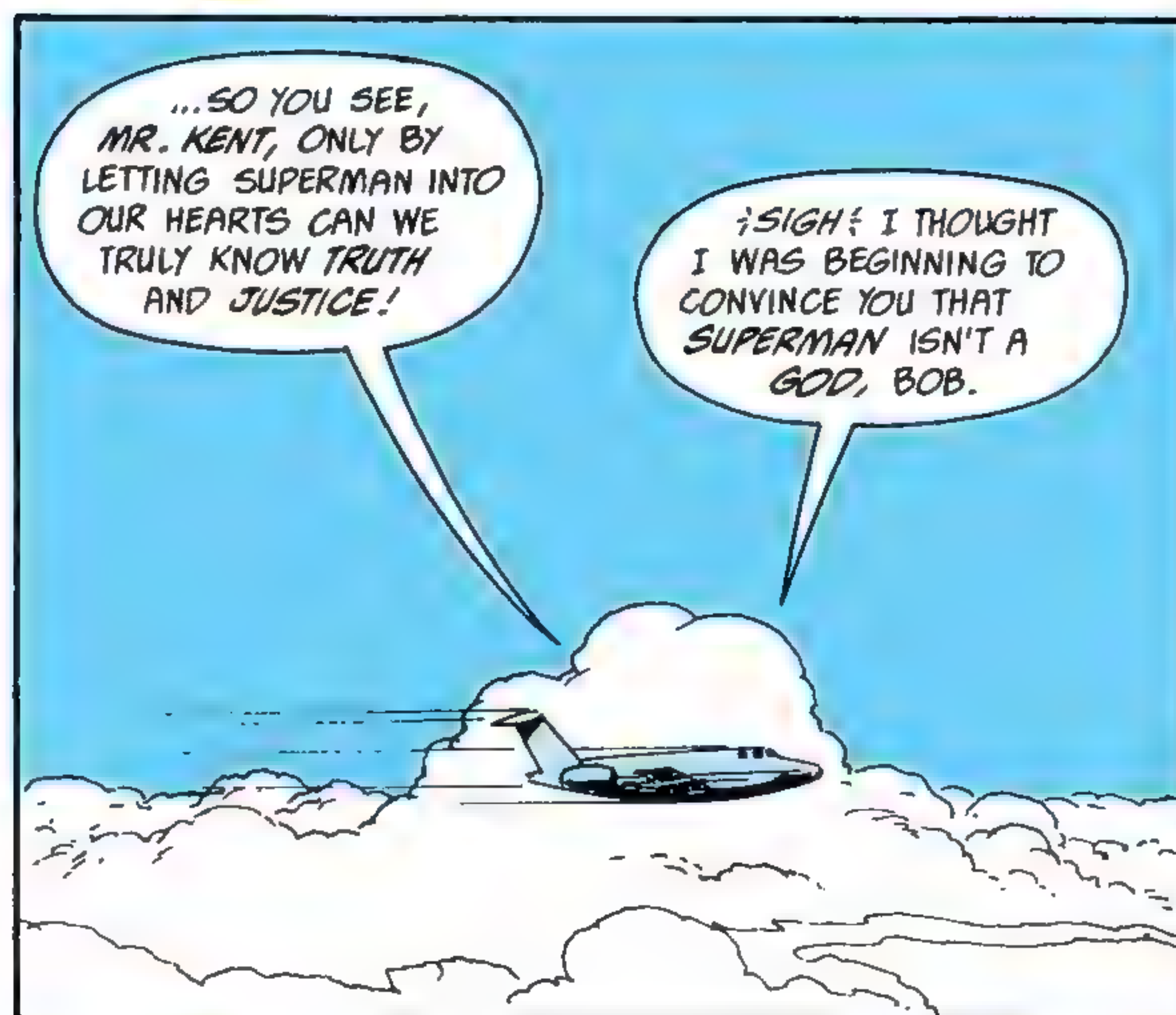
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JOE SHUSTER

LAST WEEK: EN ROUTE TO CALIFORNIA TO FIND THE ELDERS OF THE FELLOWSHIP, CLARK KENT AND BOB GALT EVADED AGENTS OF THE MYSTERIOUS CONSORTIUM BY BOARDING A COURIER PLANE...

"OUT OF THE FRYING PAN..."

ROGER STERN / WRITER
CURT SWAN / PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON / INKER
BILL OAKLEY / LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO / COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN / EDITOR



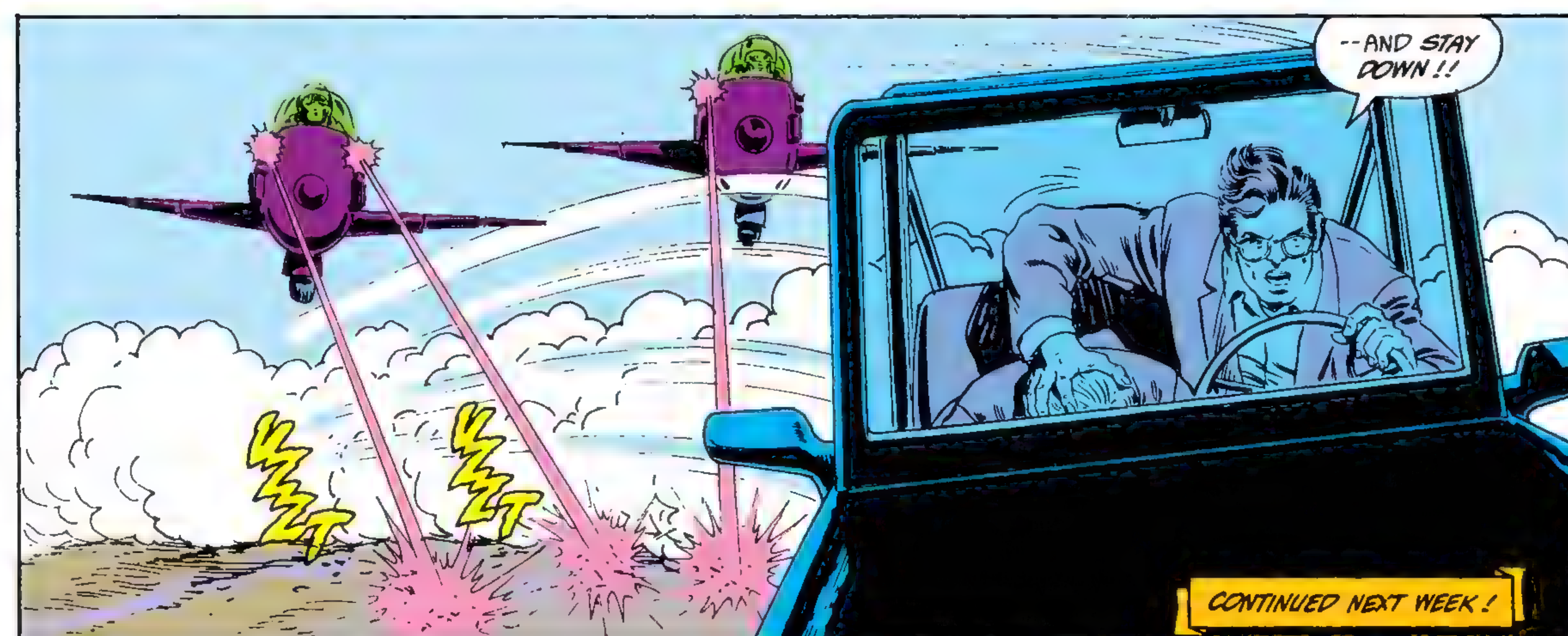
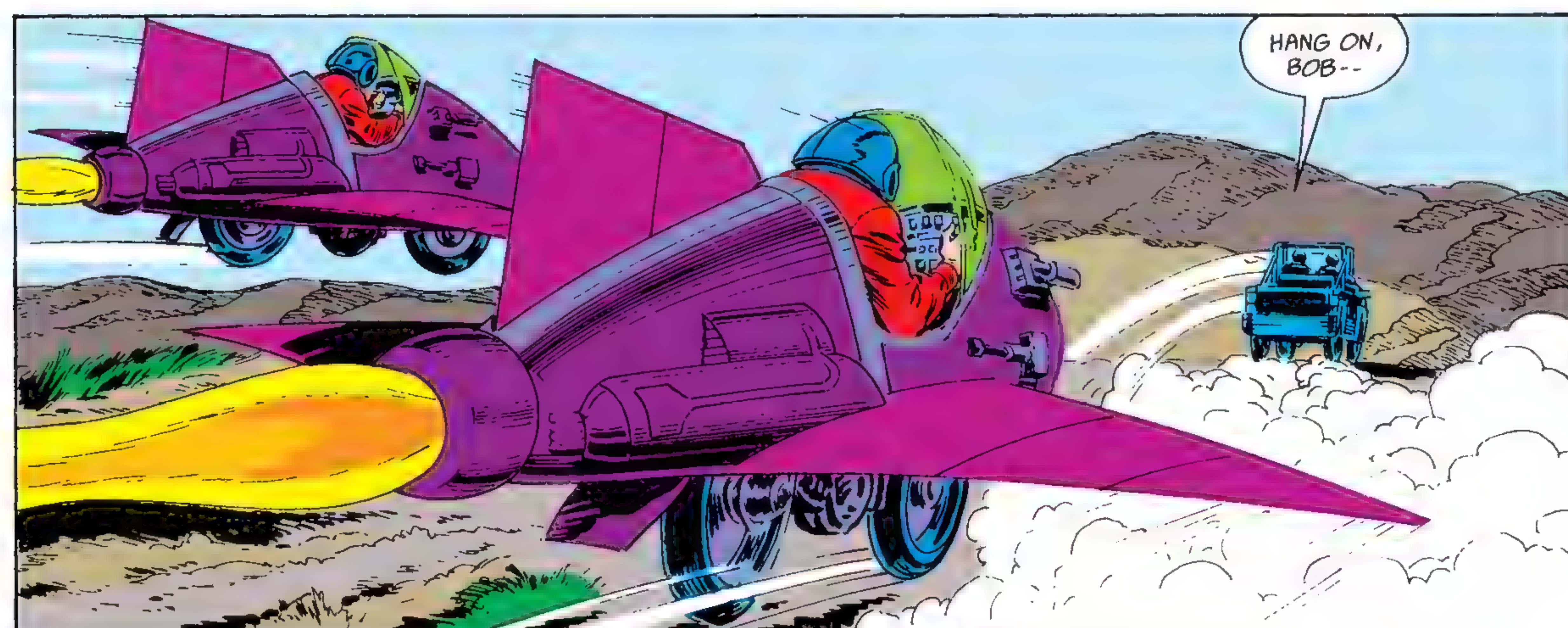
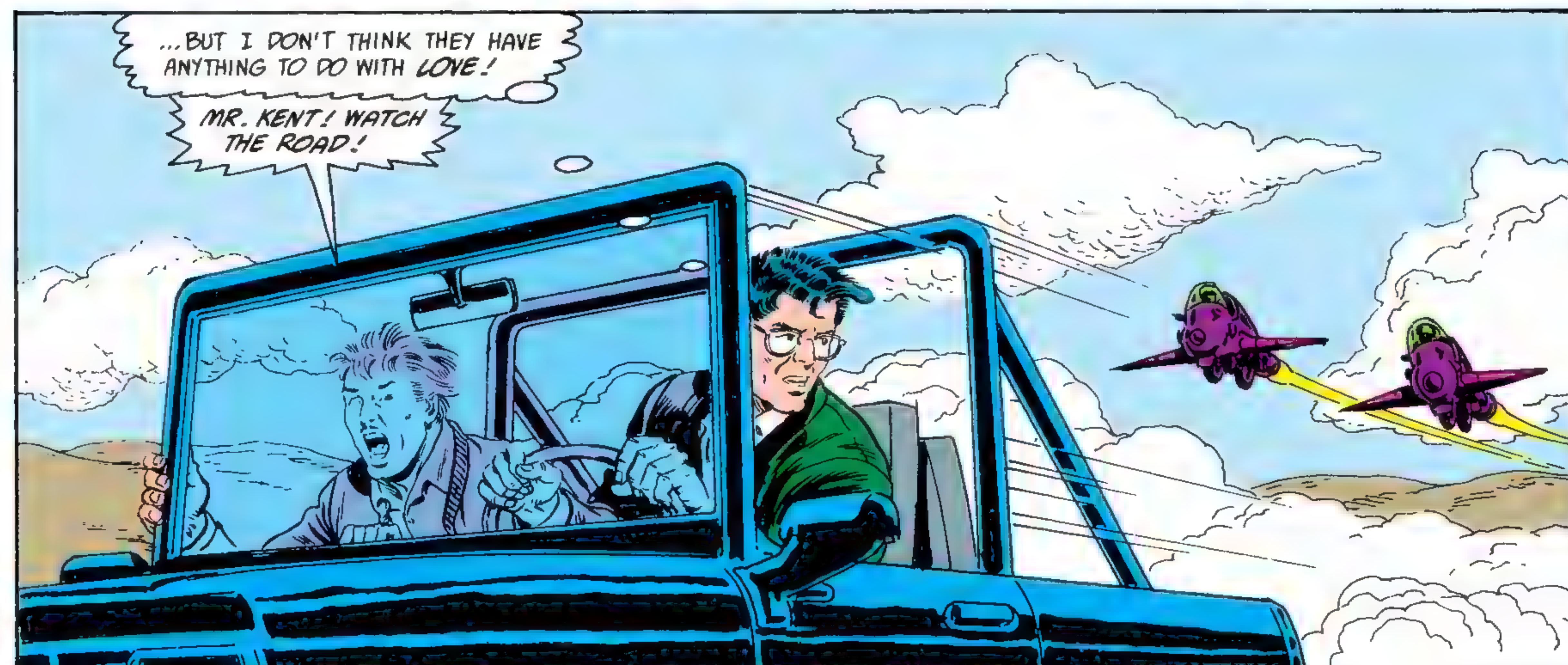
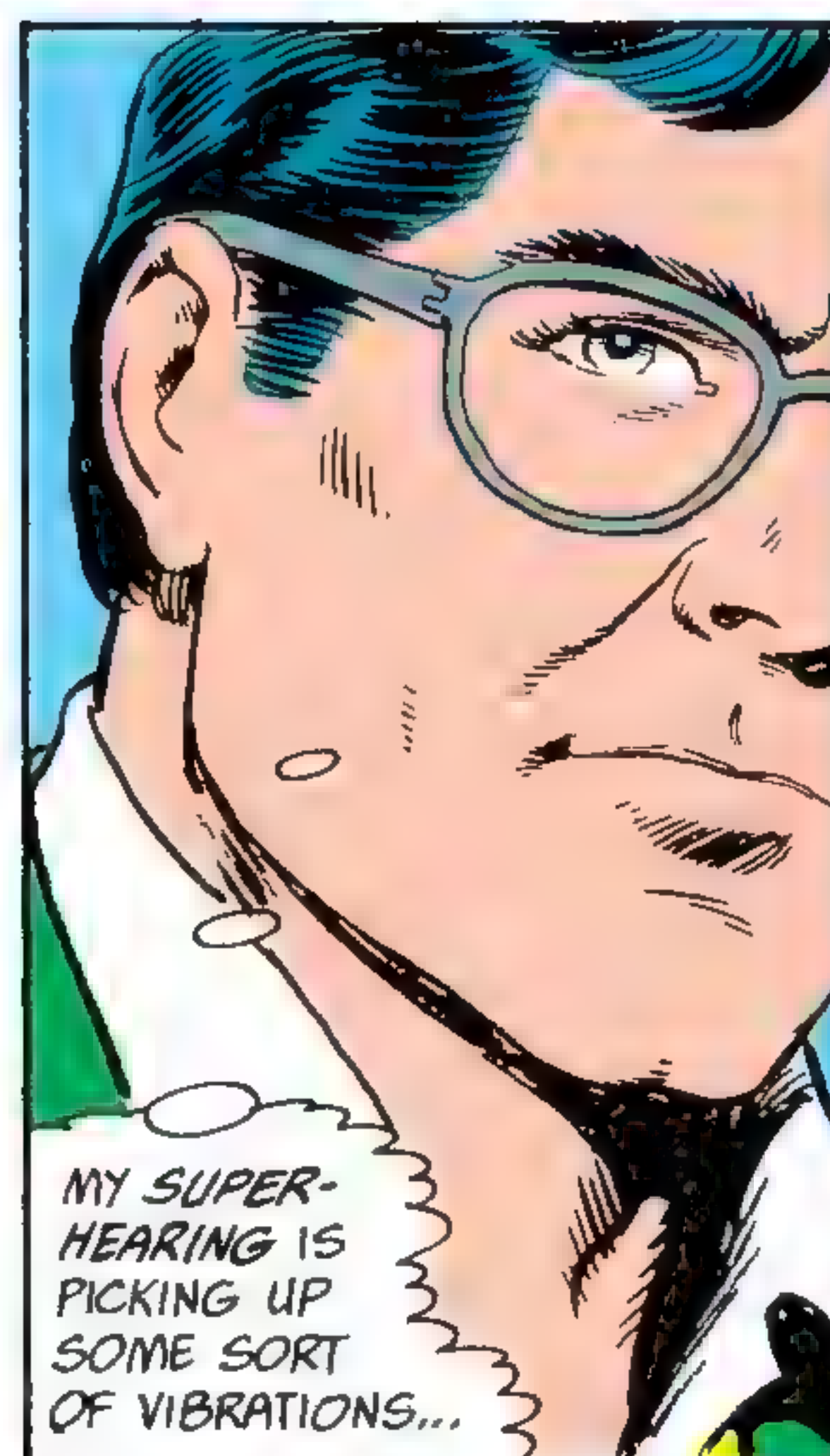
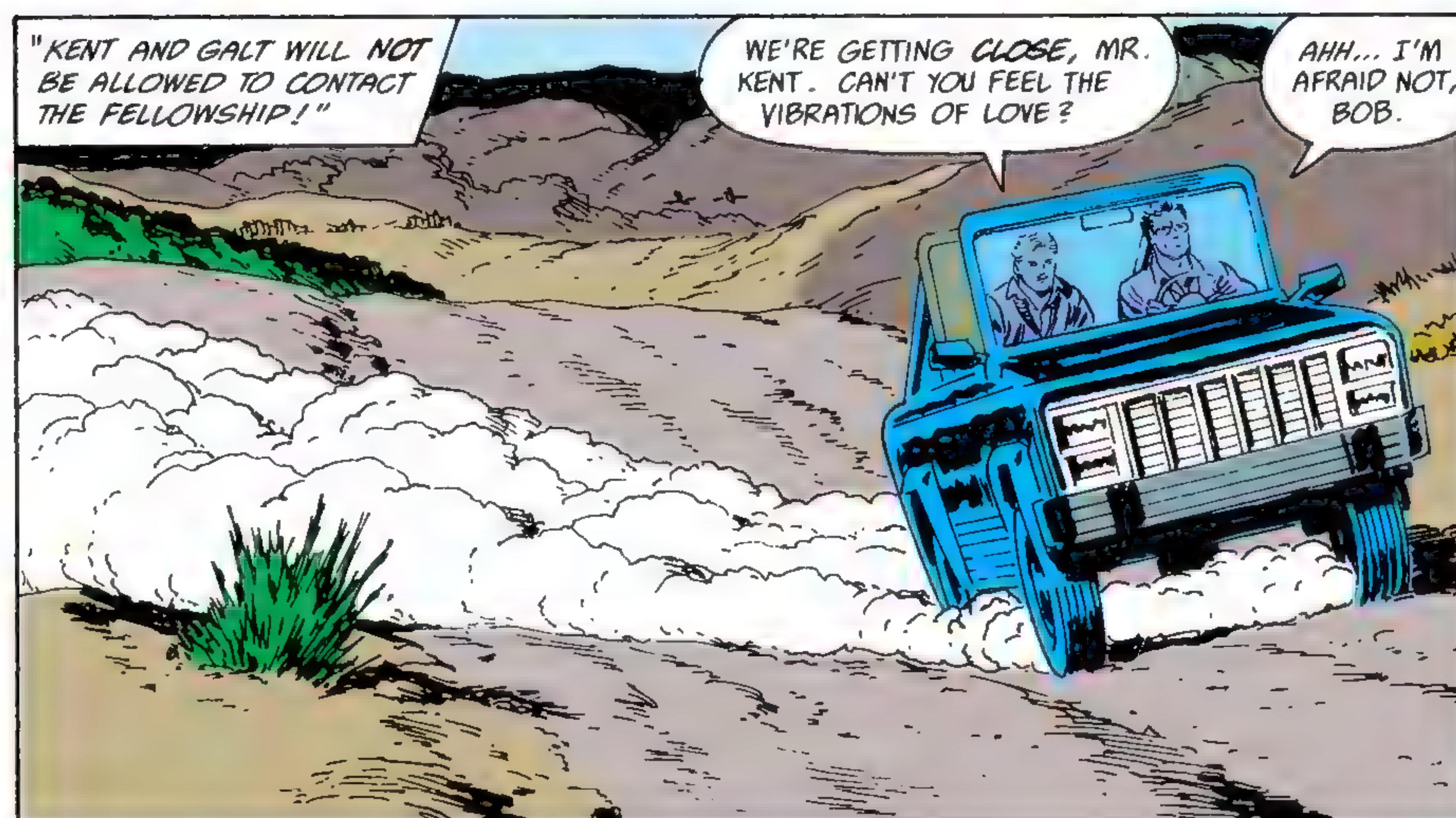
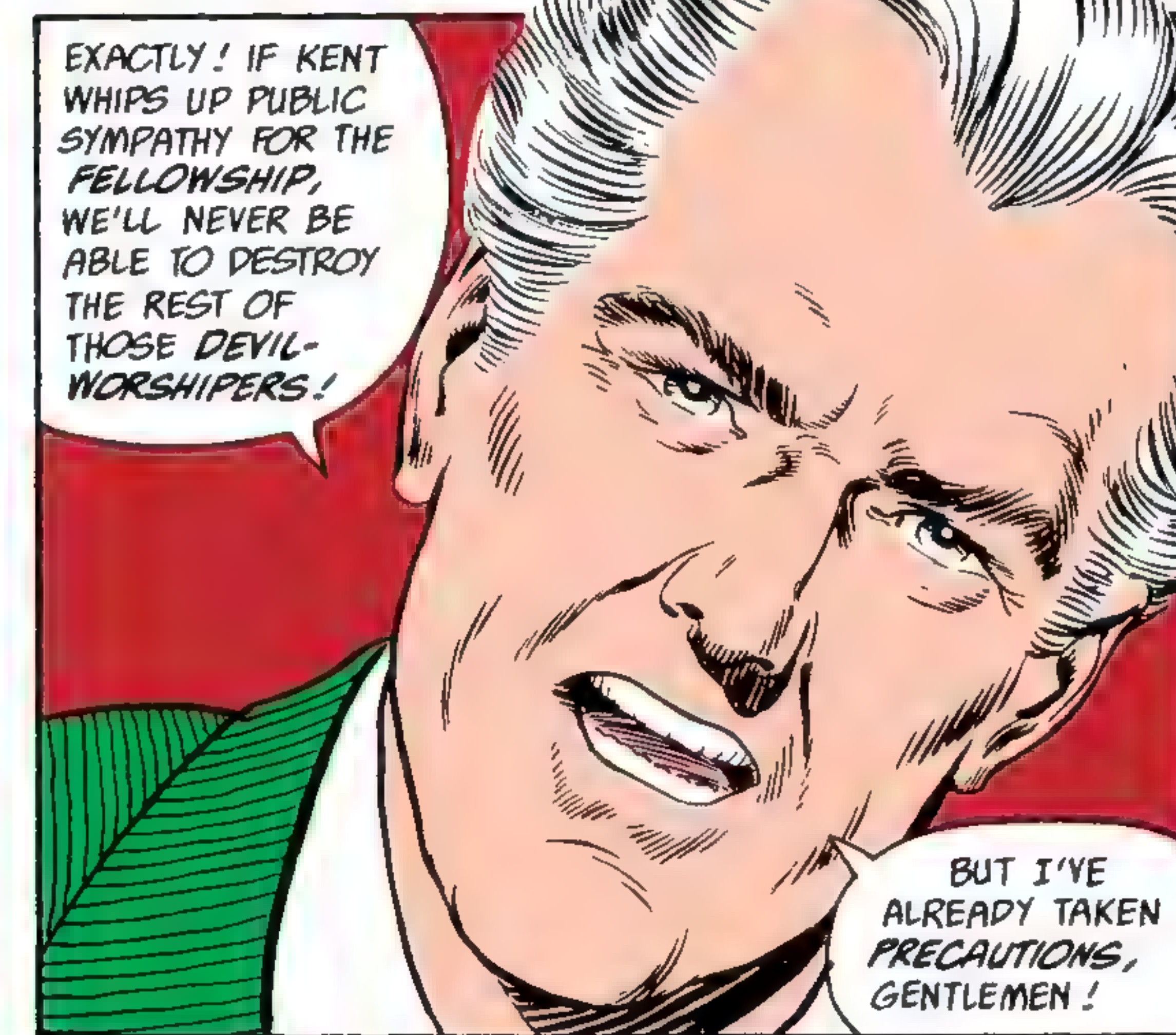
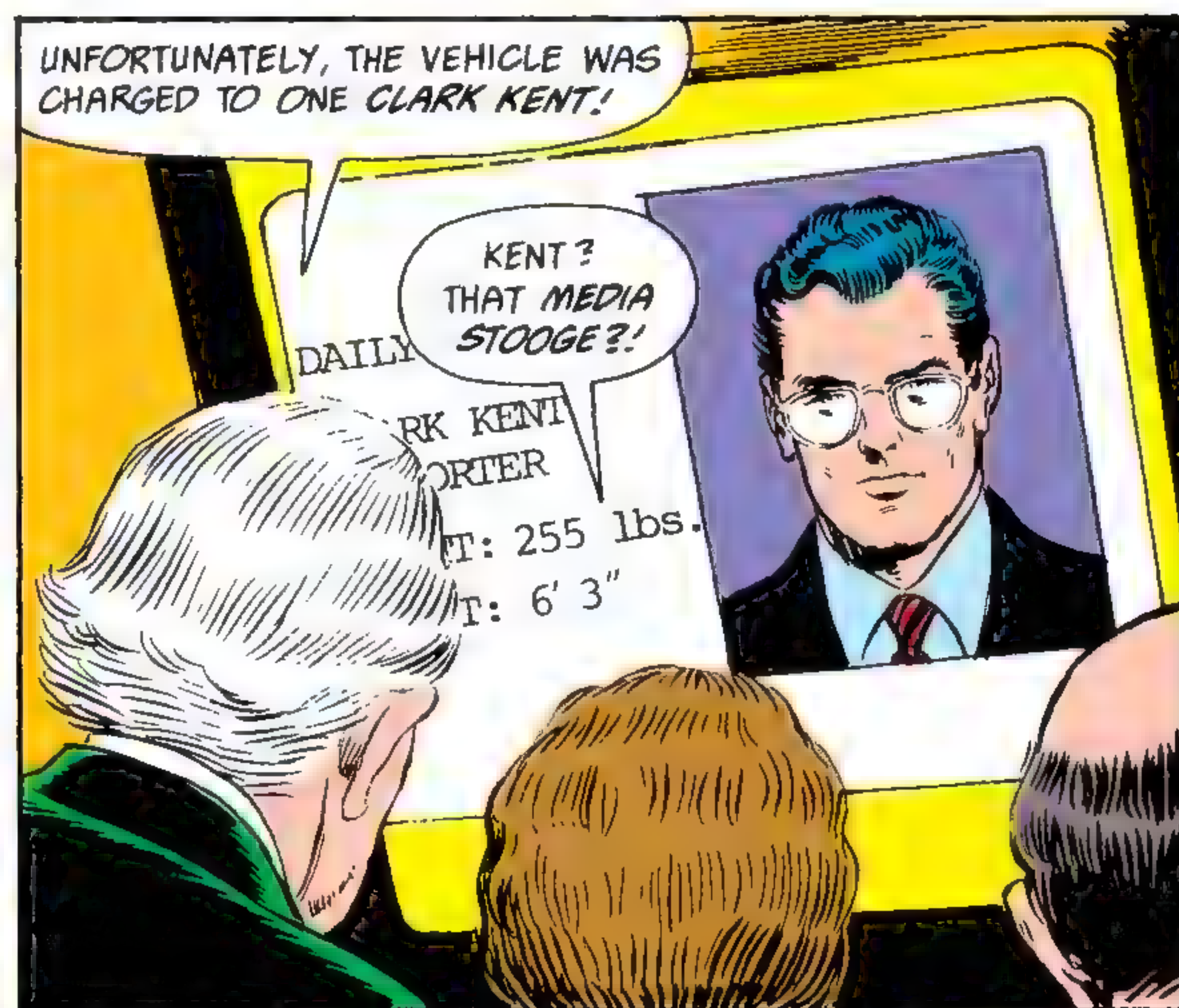
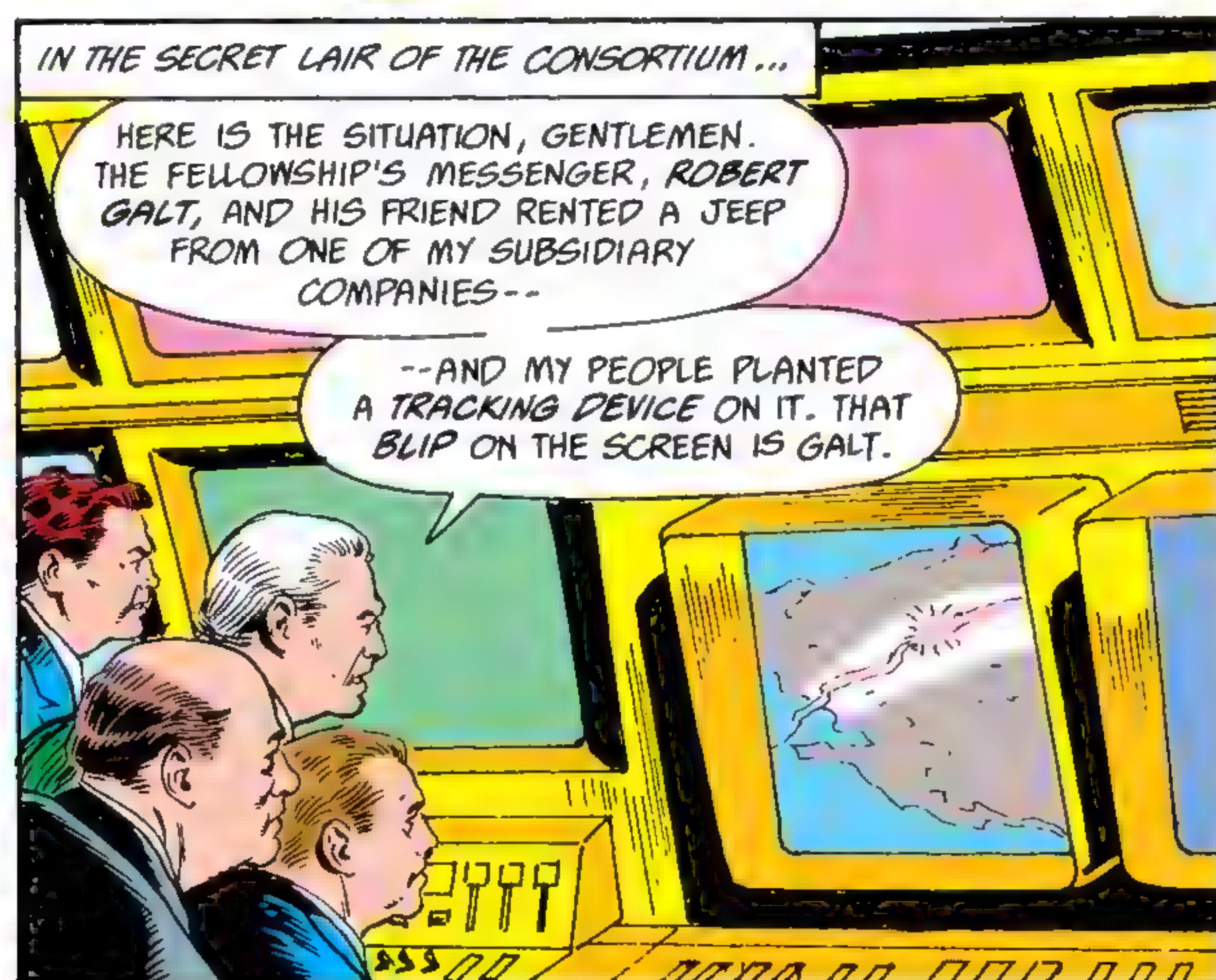
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JOE SHUSTER

"...INTO

THE FIRE!"

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!

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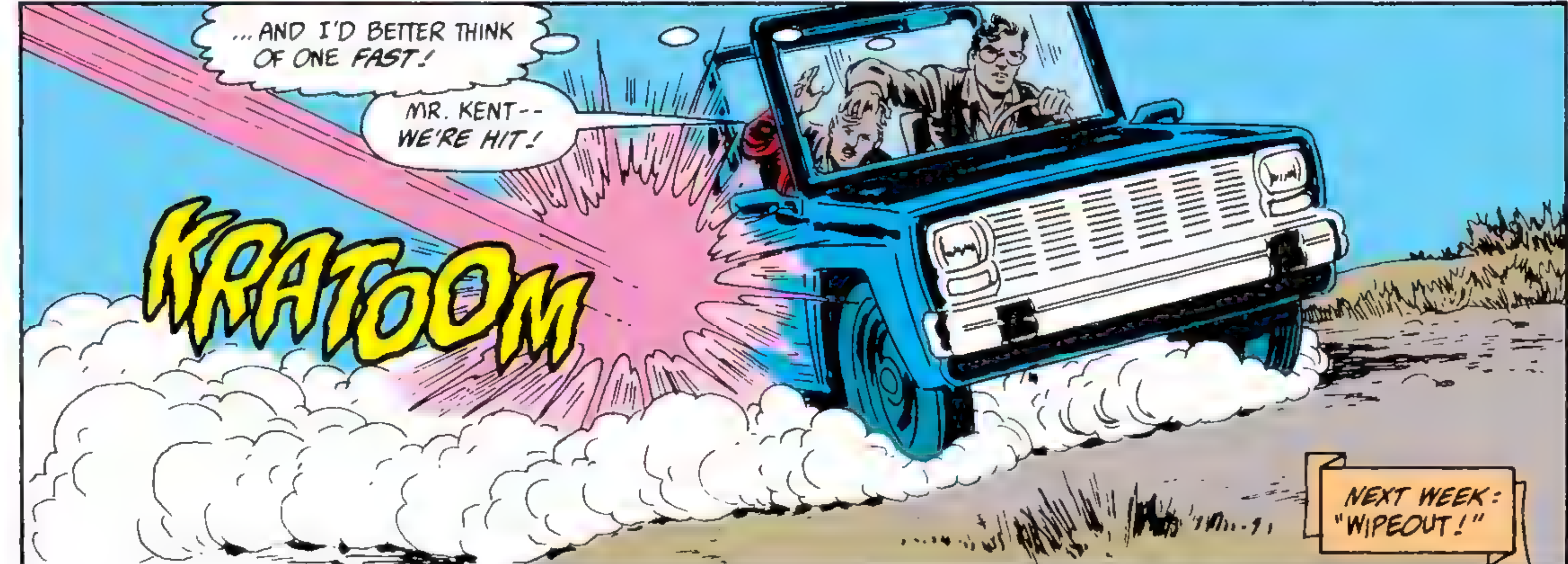
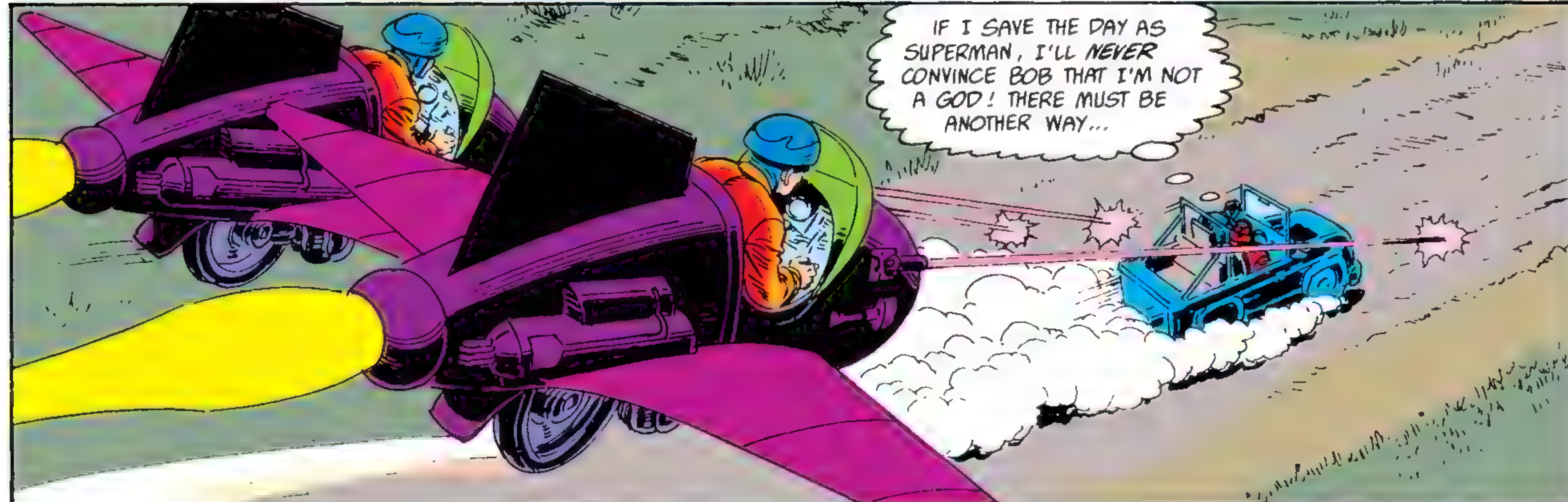
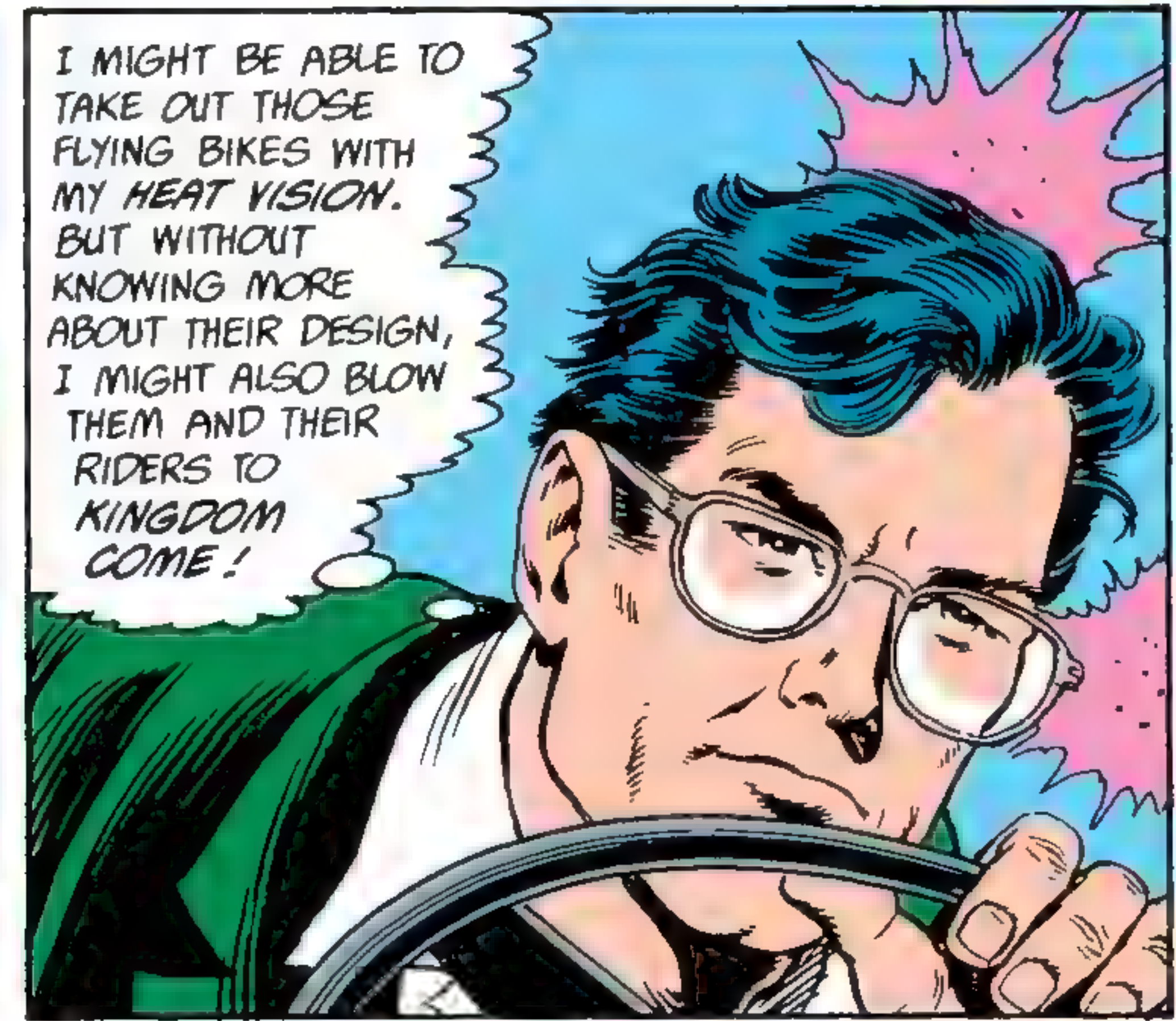
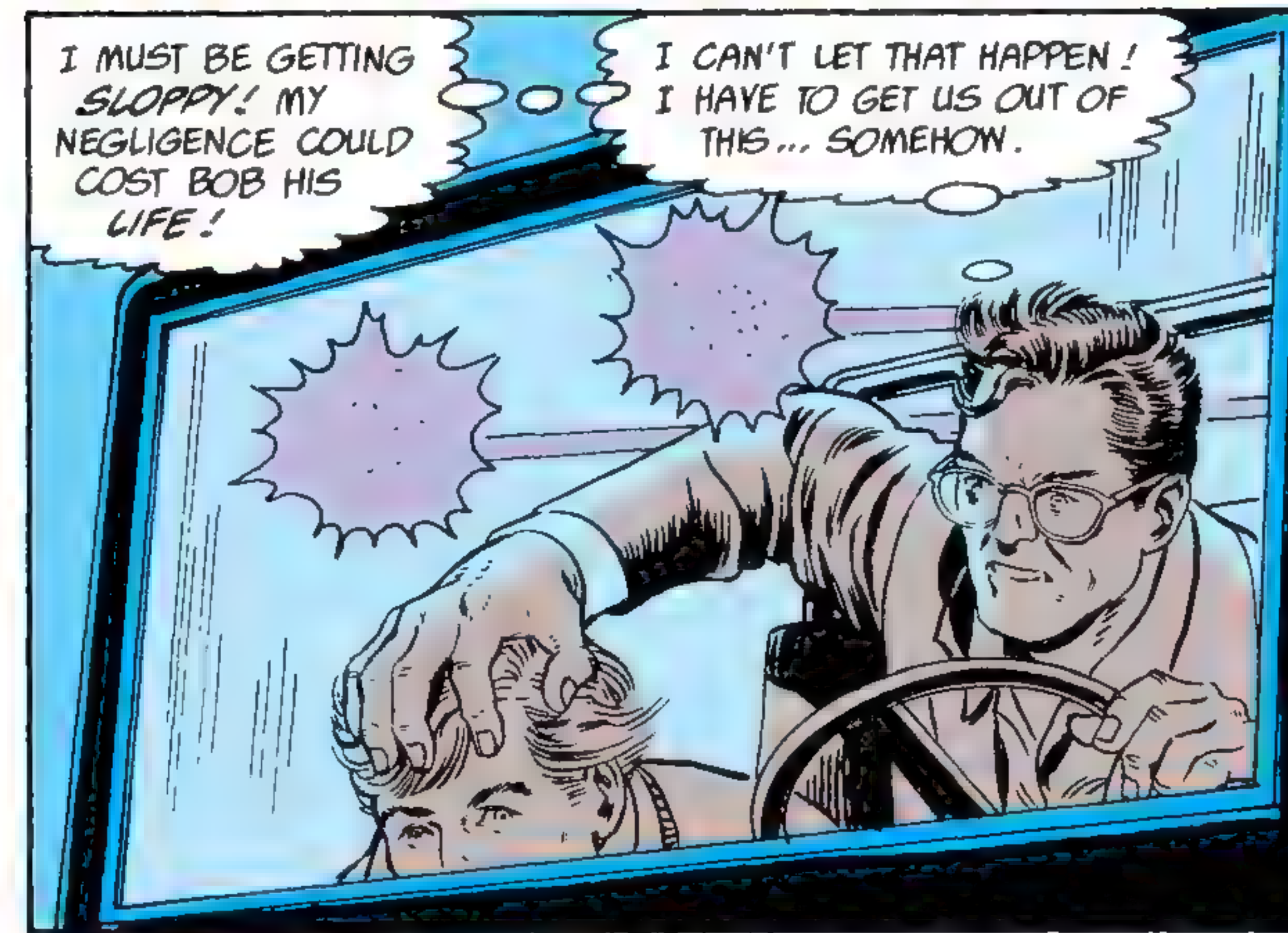
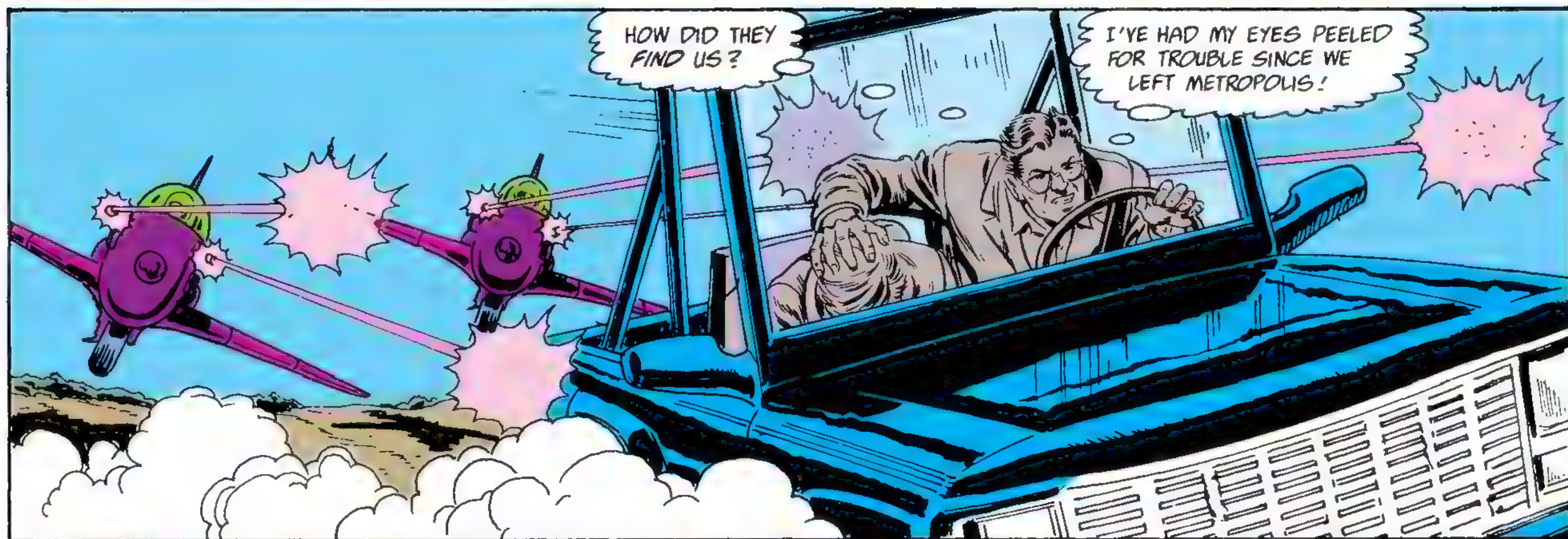
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UNAWARE THAT A HOMING
DEVICE PLANTED IN THEIR
RENTAL JEEP HAS ALLOWED
THEM TO BE FOLLOWED, CLARK
KENT AND BOB GALT
SUDDENLY FIND THEMSELVES
UNDER ATTACK BY AGENTS
OF THE CONSORTIUM!

"PANIC

IN THE SANDS!"

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZILKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



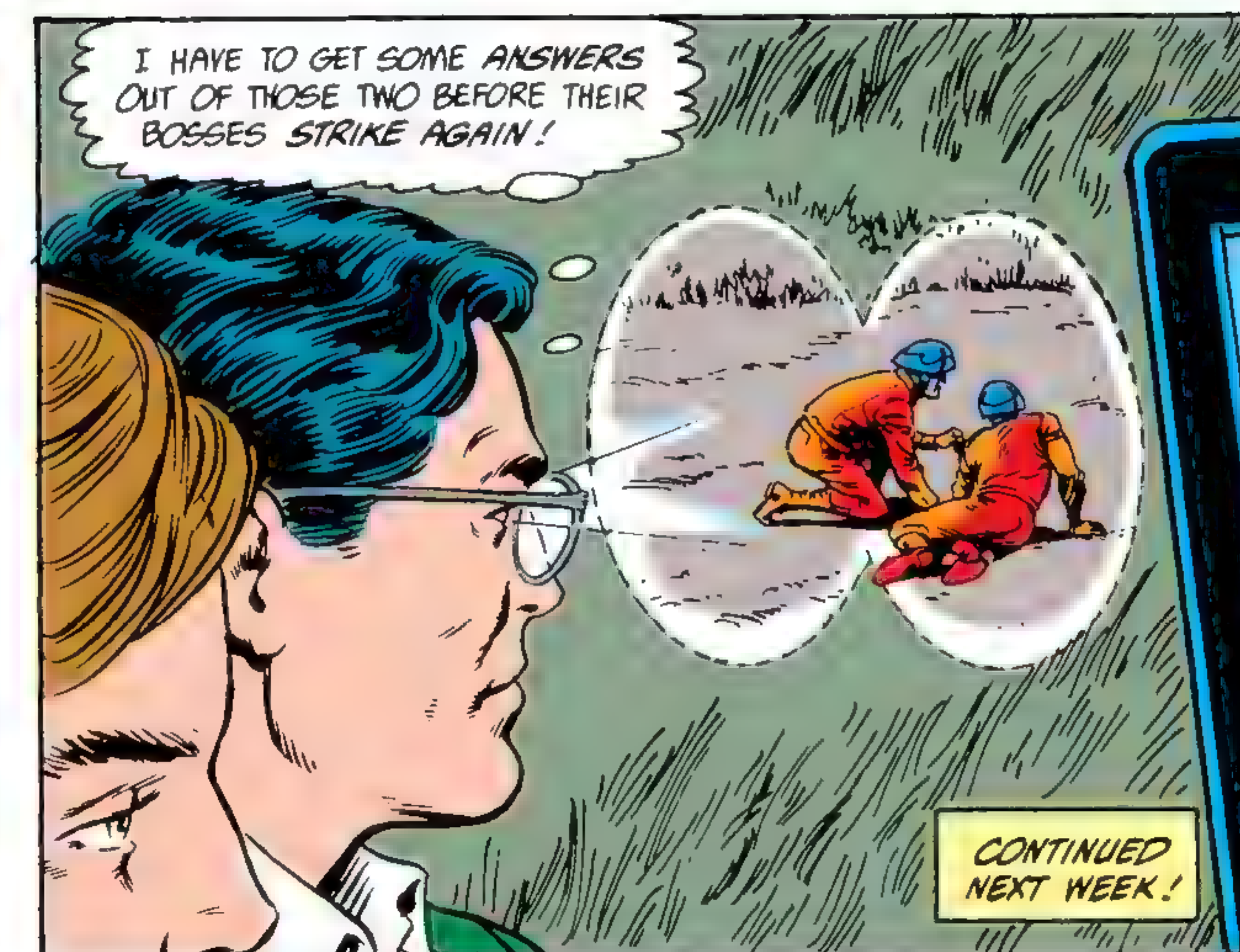
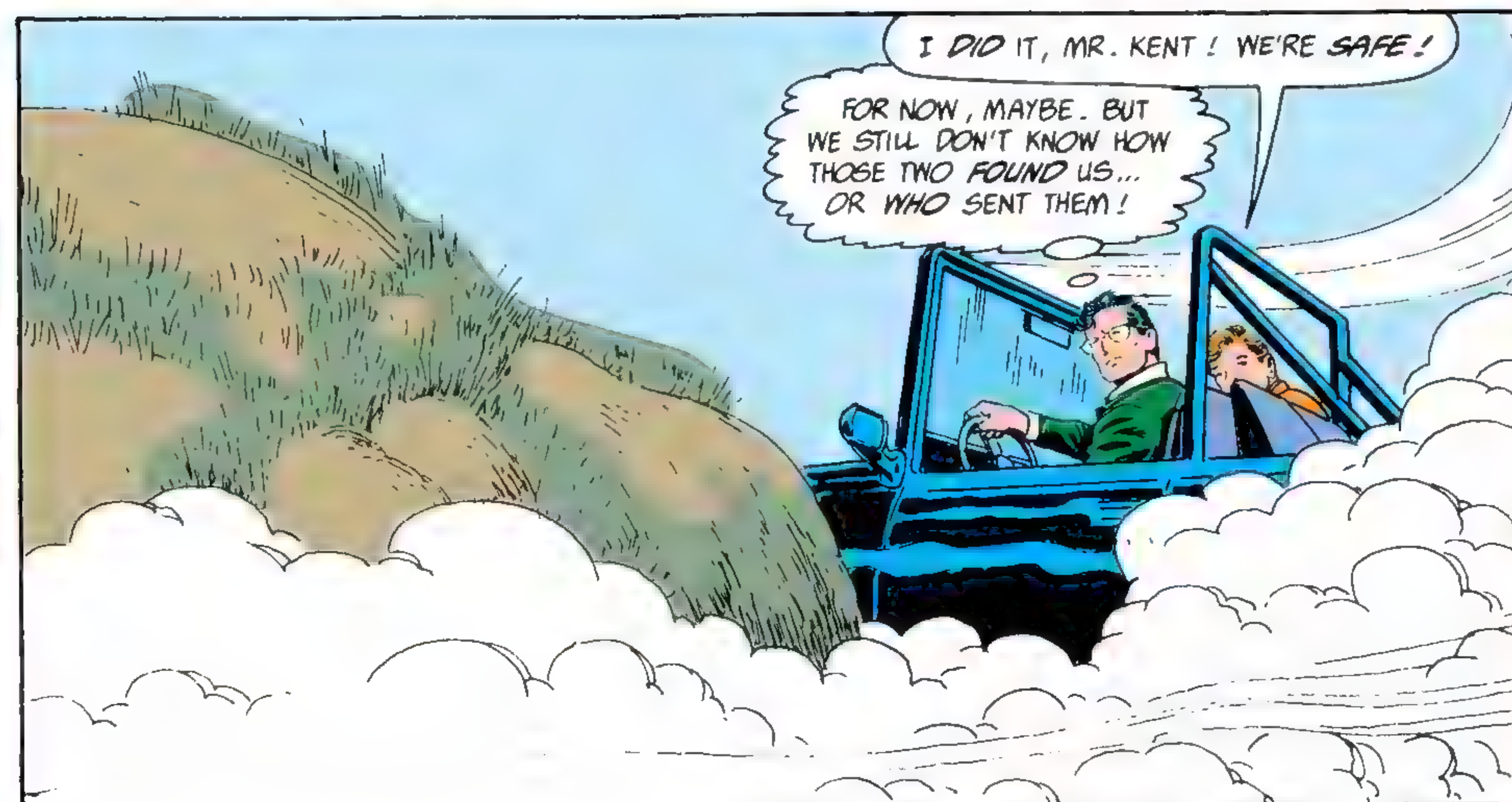
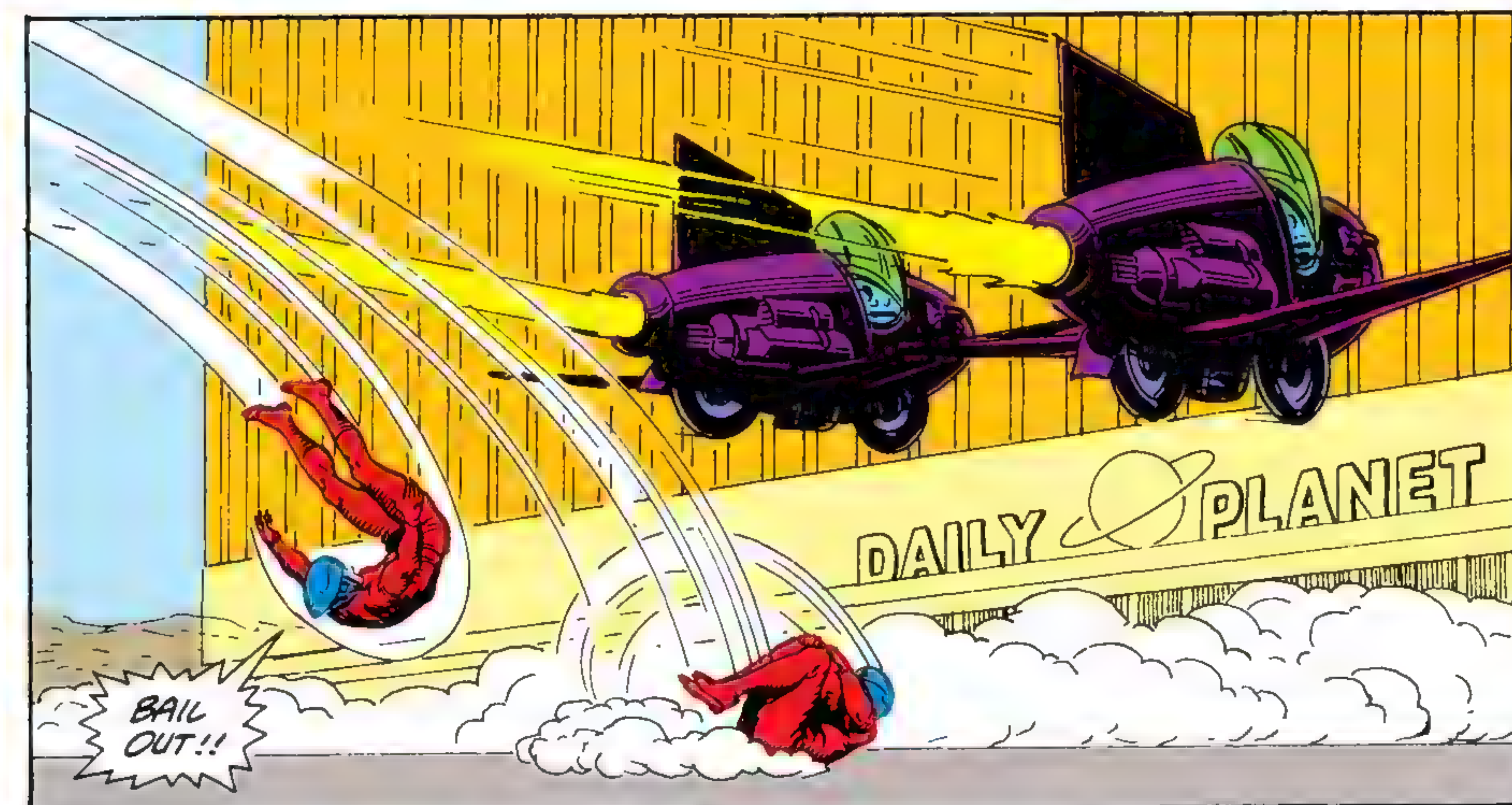
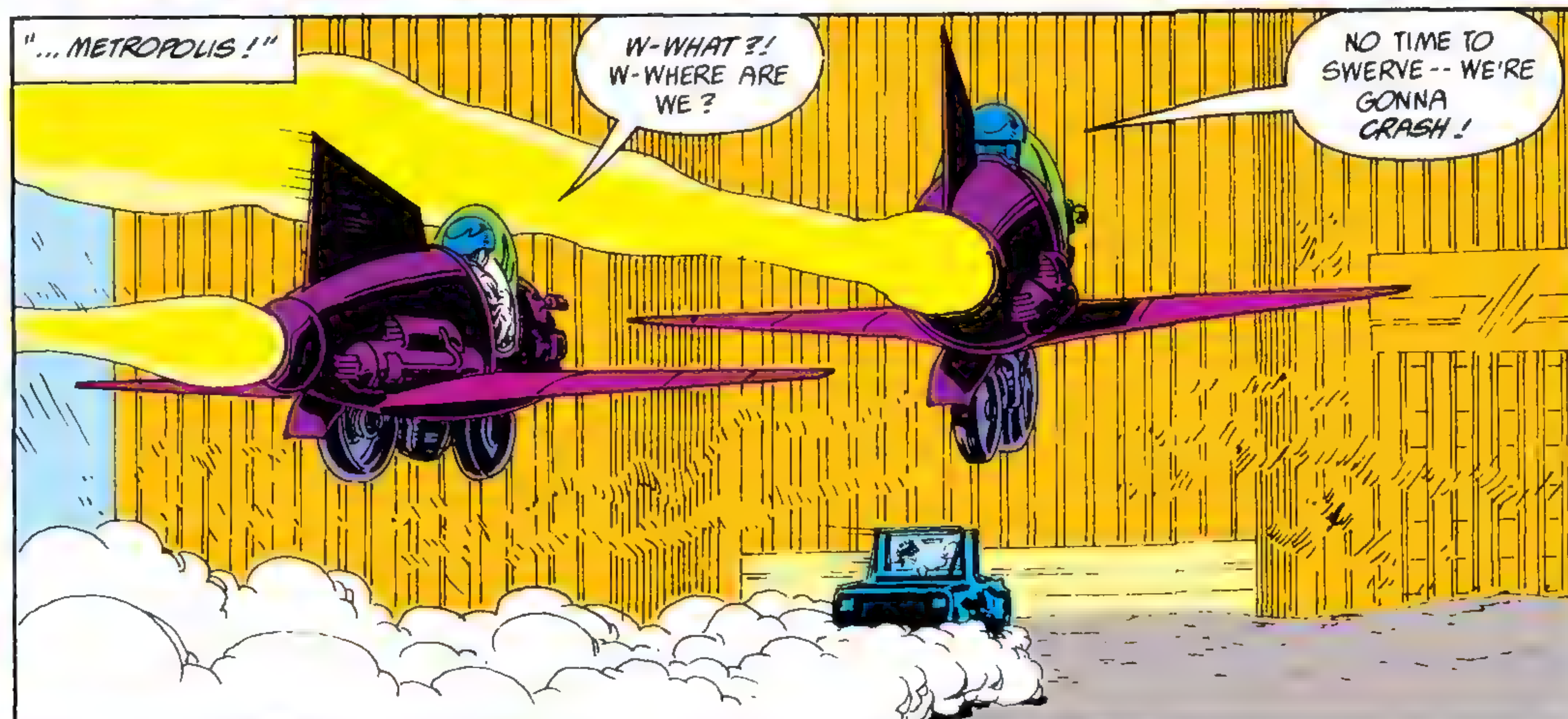
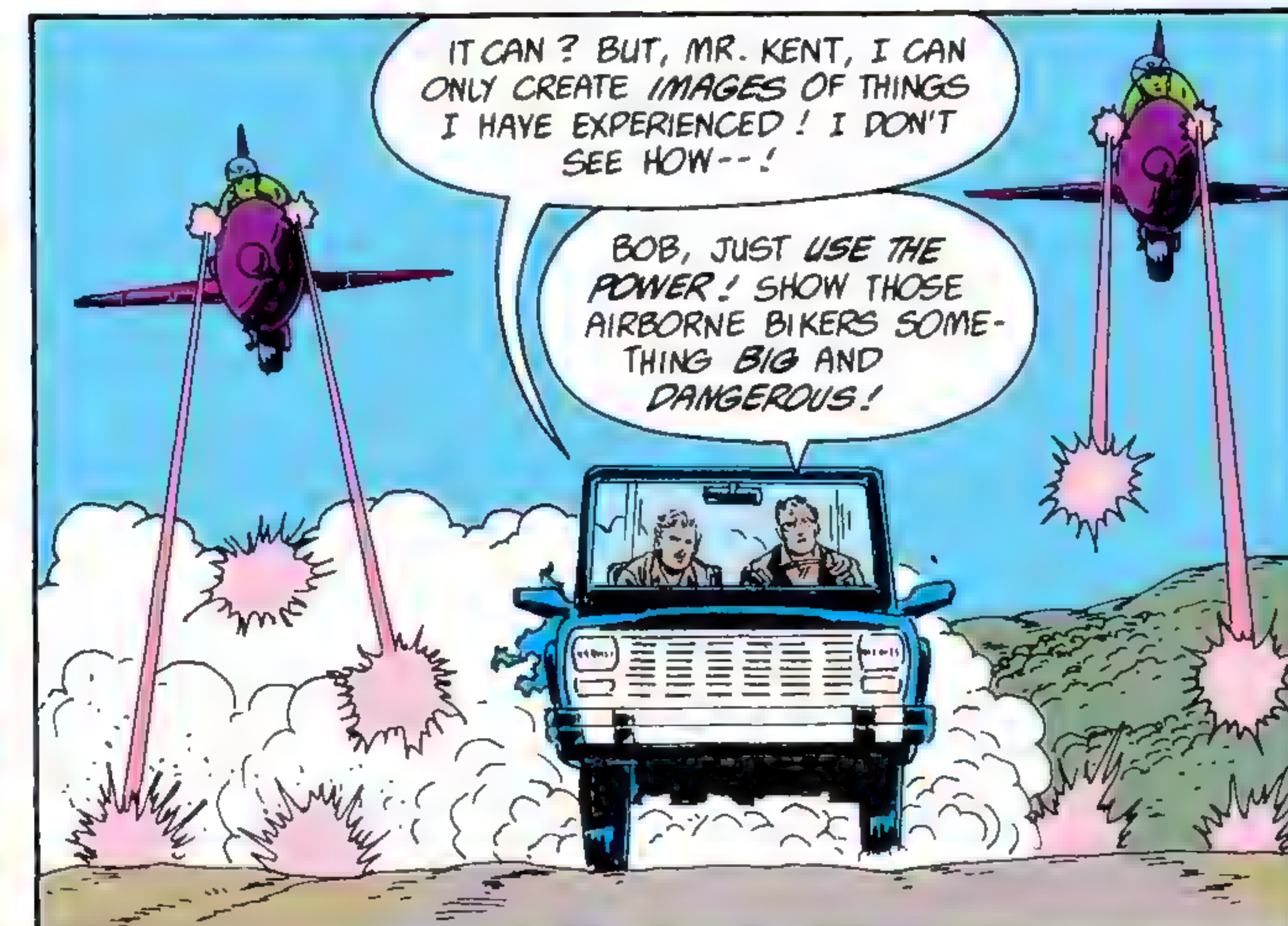
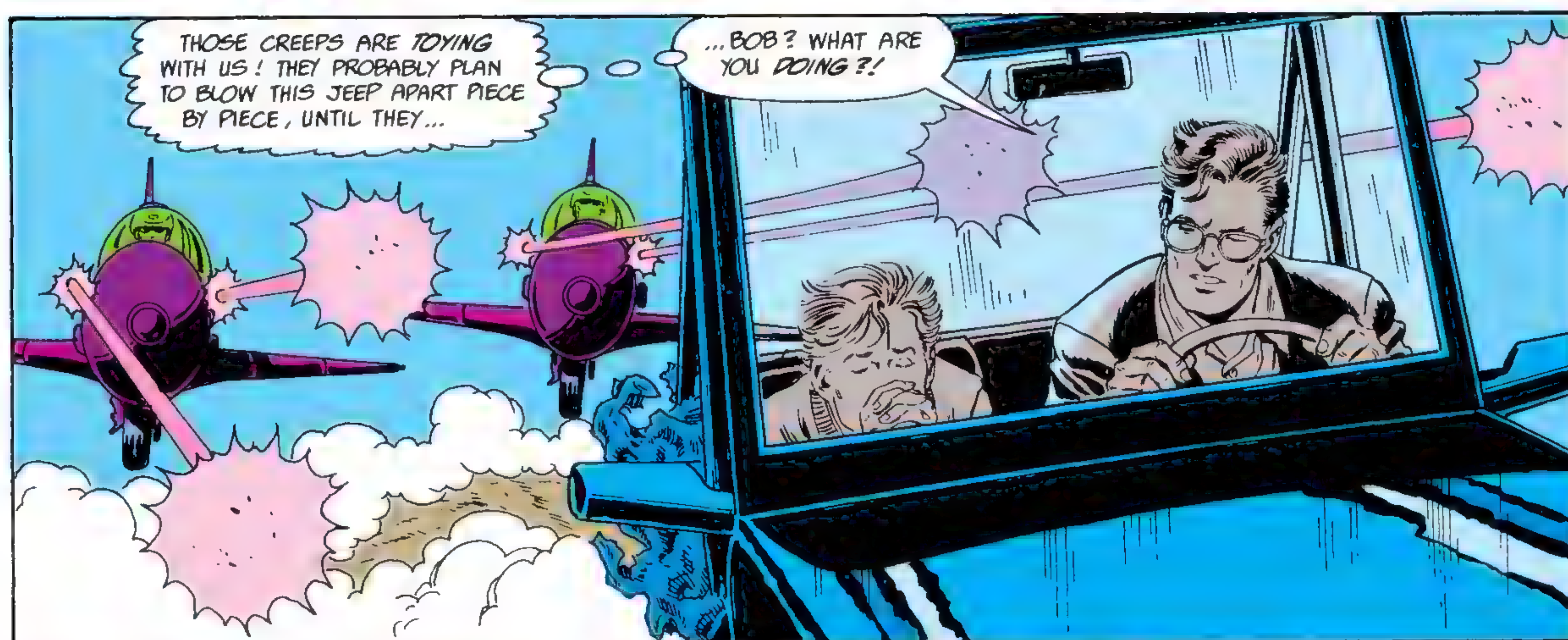
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WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE: REPORTER CLARK KENT (SECRETLY SUPERMAN) HAS JOURNEYED TO CALIFORNIA WITH YOUNG BOB GALT, IN HOPES OF LEARNING MORE ABOUT BOB'S STRANGE SUPERMAN-WORSHIPING FELLOWSHIP. BUT A PAIR OF SUPER-ASSASSINS ARE DETERMINED TO STOP THEM!

WIPEOUT!

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



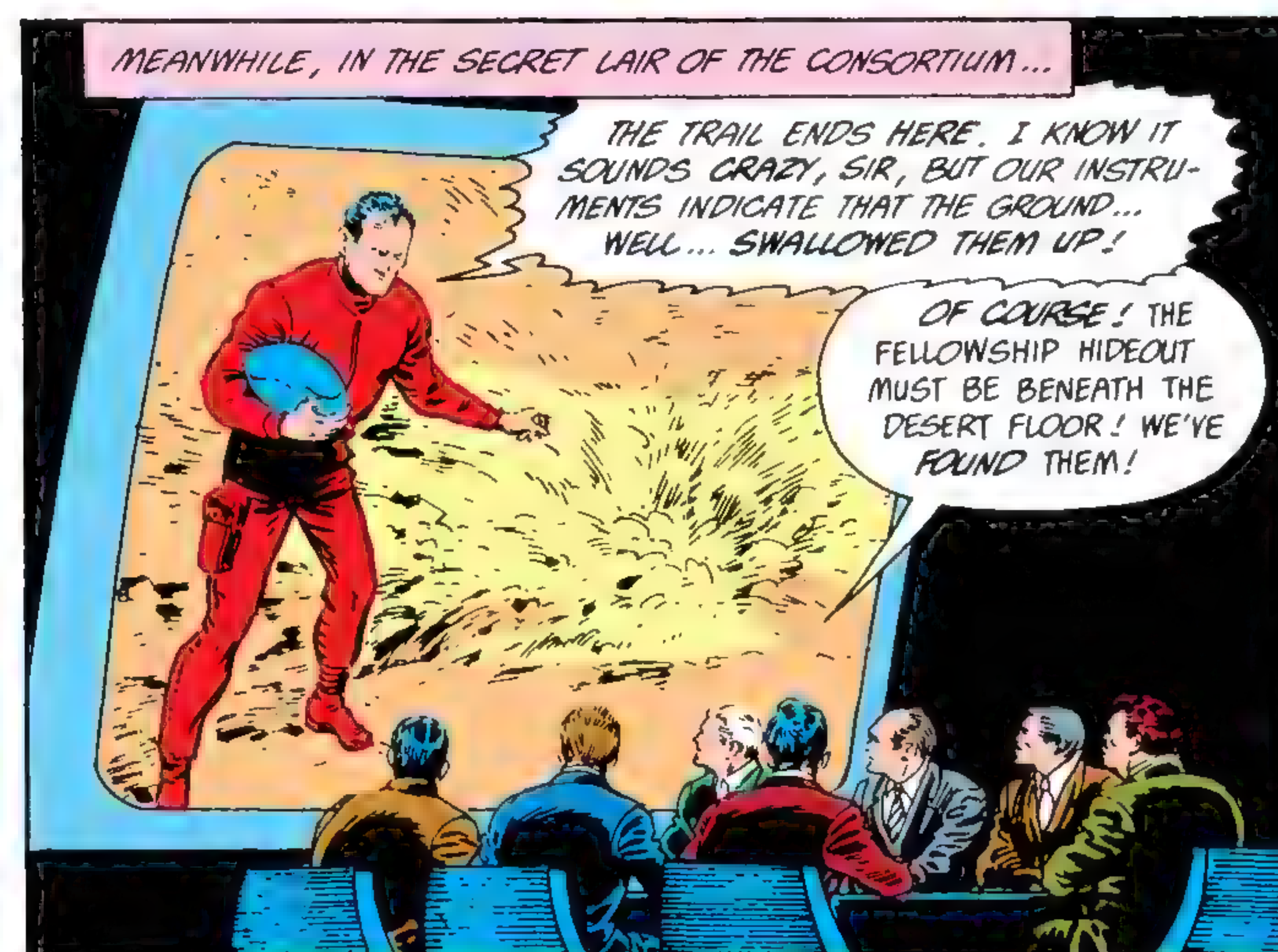
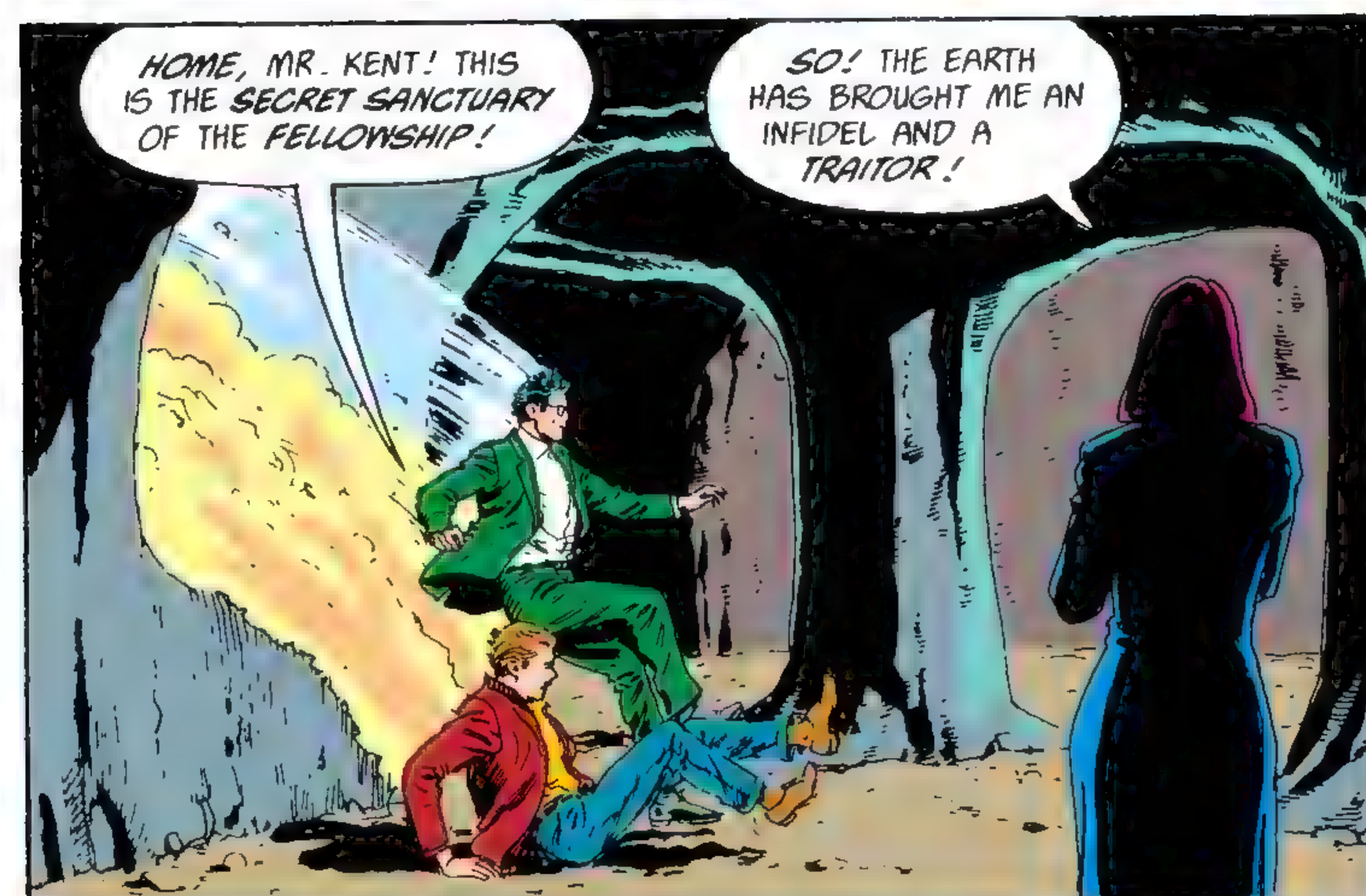
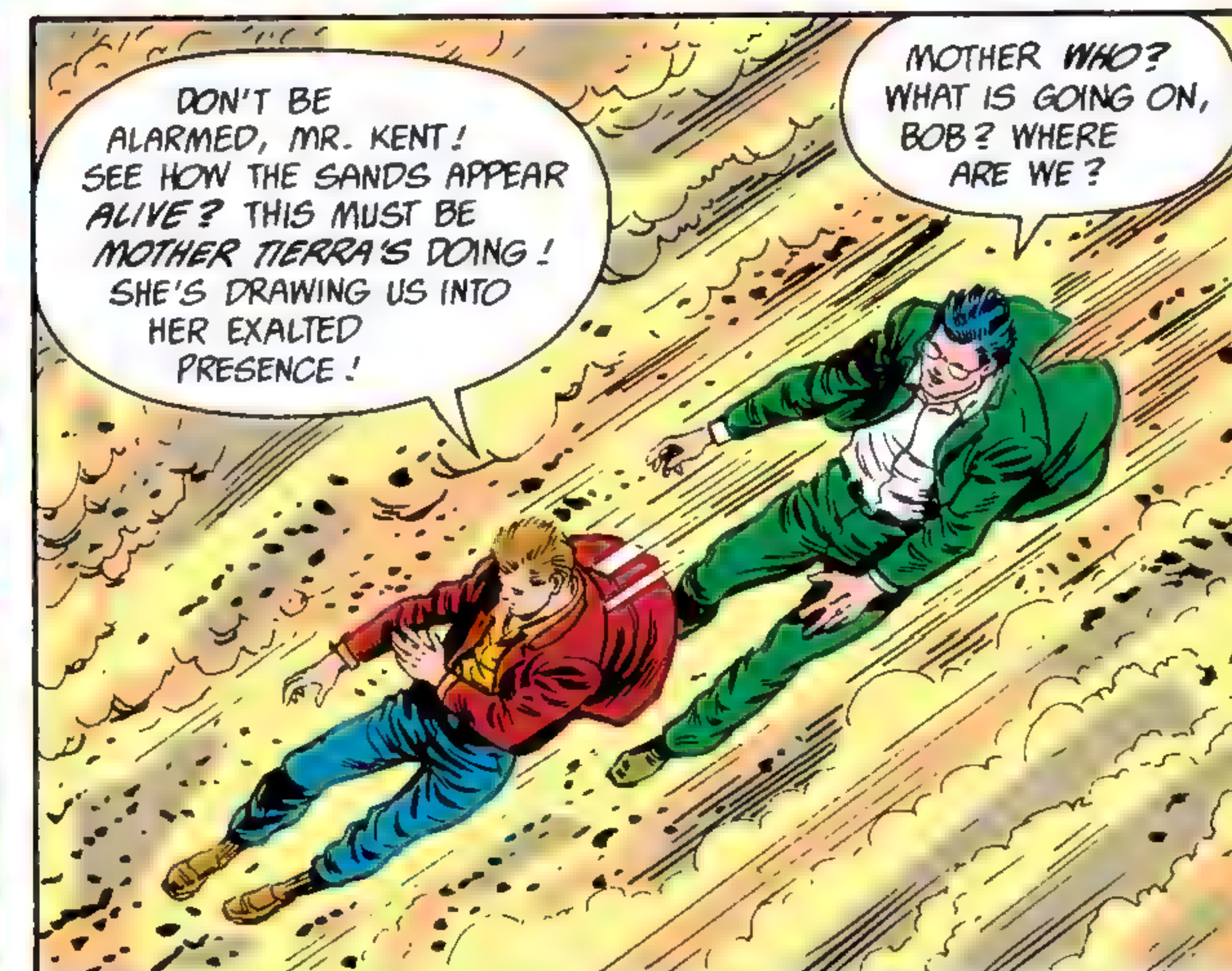
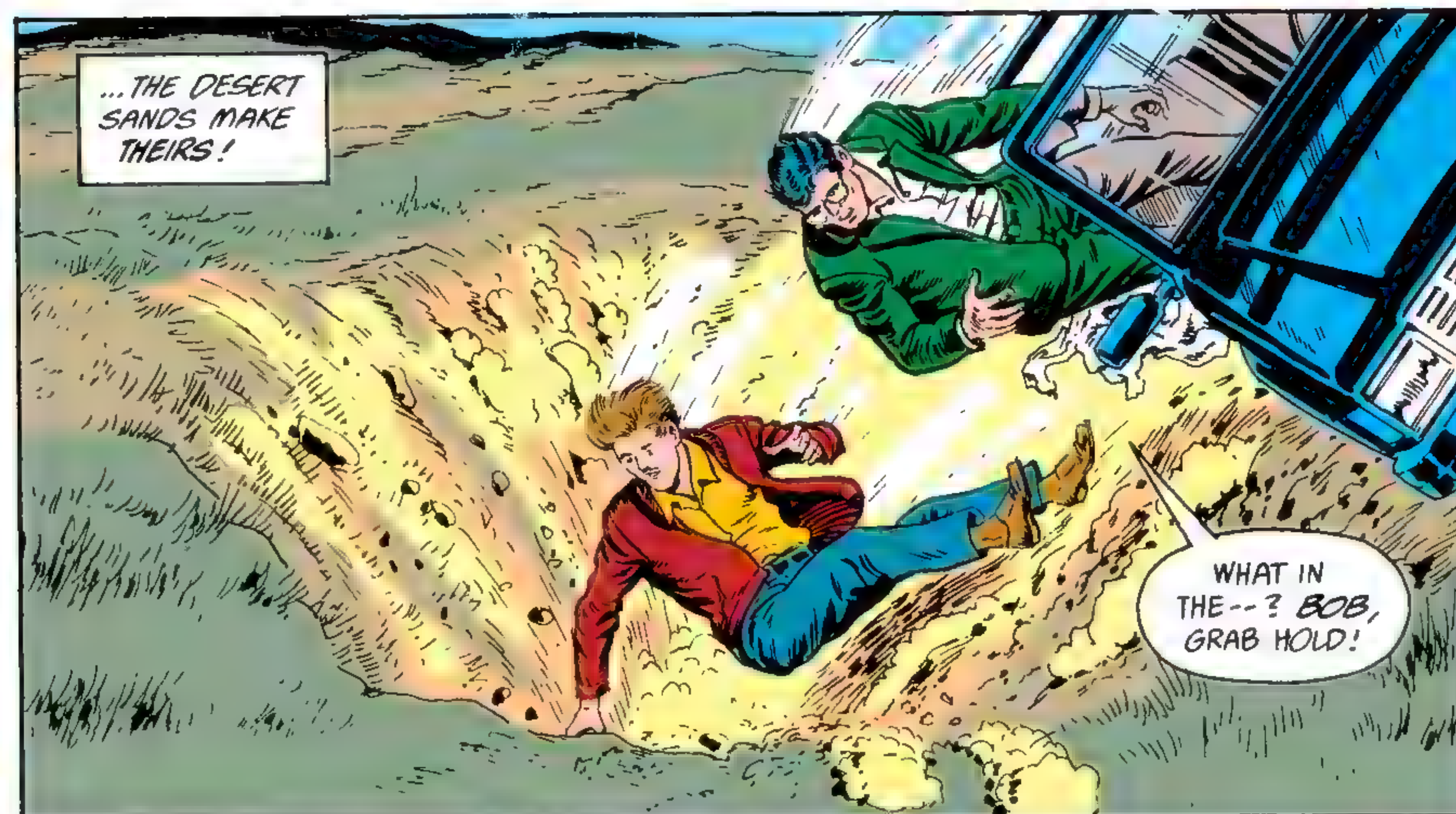
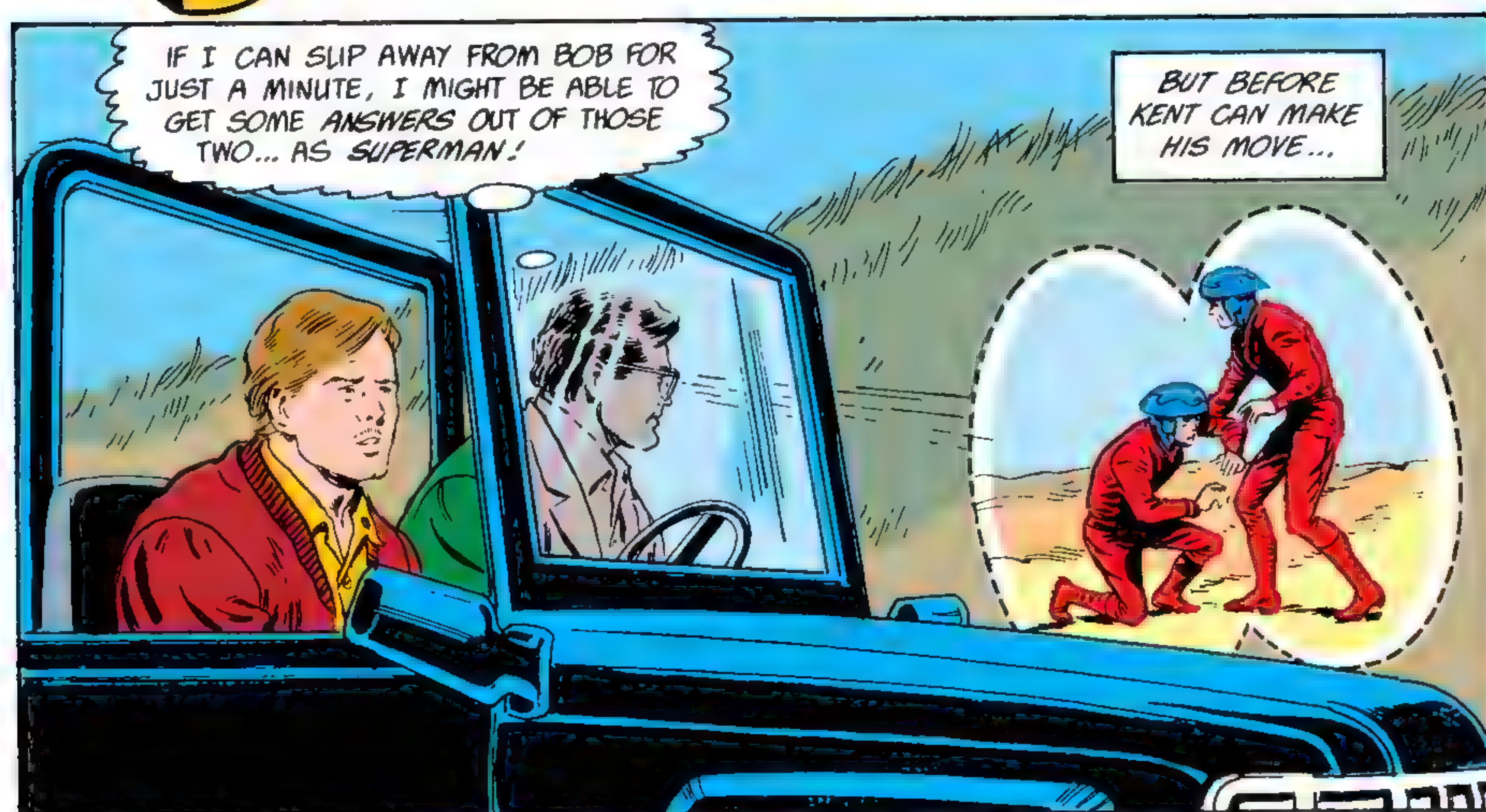
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LAST WEEK: WITH A LITTLE COACHING
FROM CLARK KENT, SUPERMAN-
WORSHIPER BOB GALT UTILIZED HIS
IMAGE-CASTING POWER TO STOP TWO
CONSORTIUM ASSASSINS!

JOURNEY'S END

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZILKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



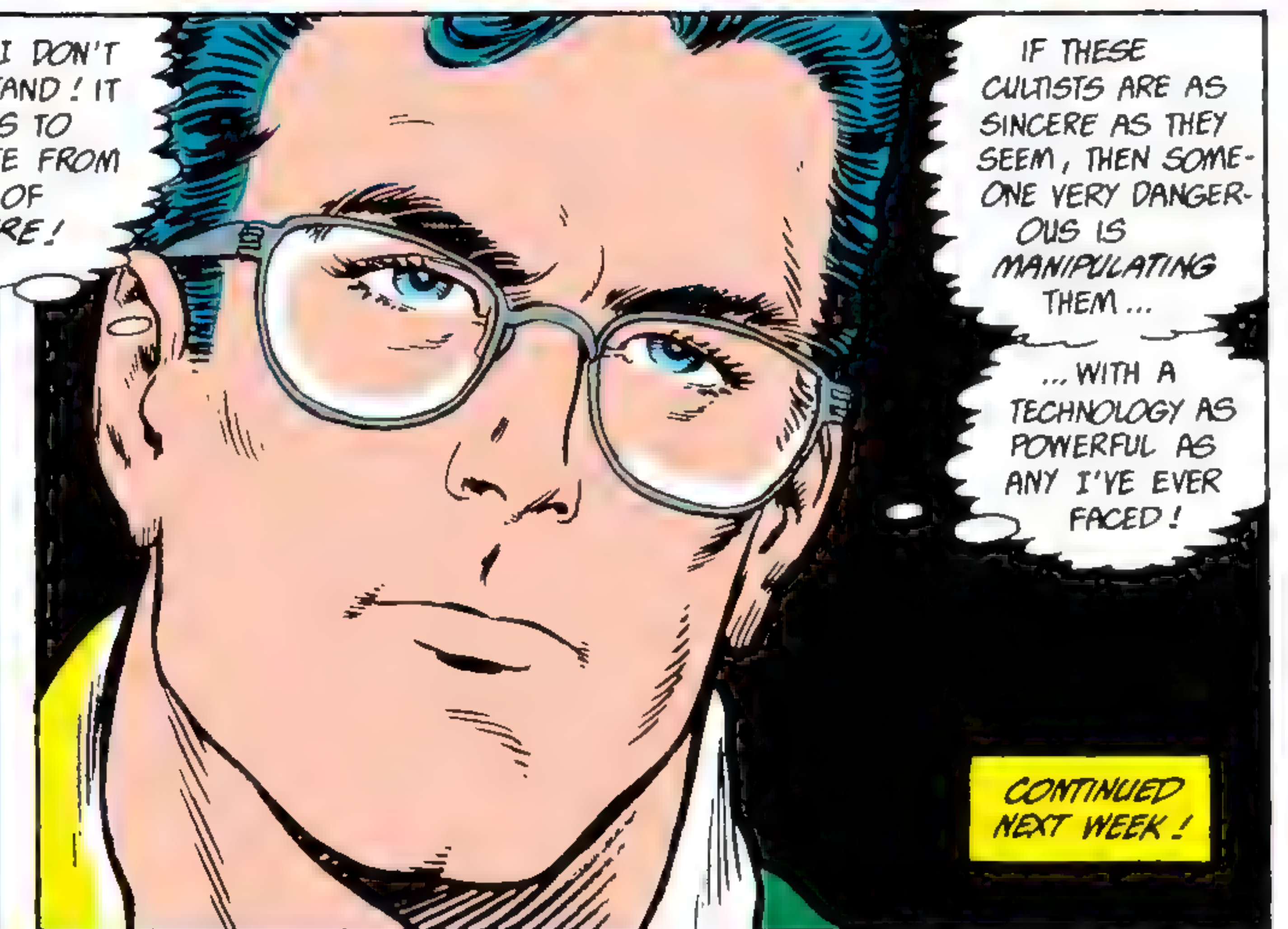
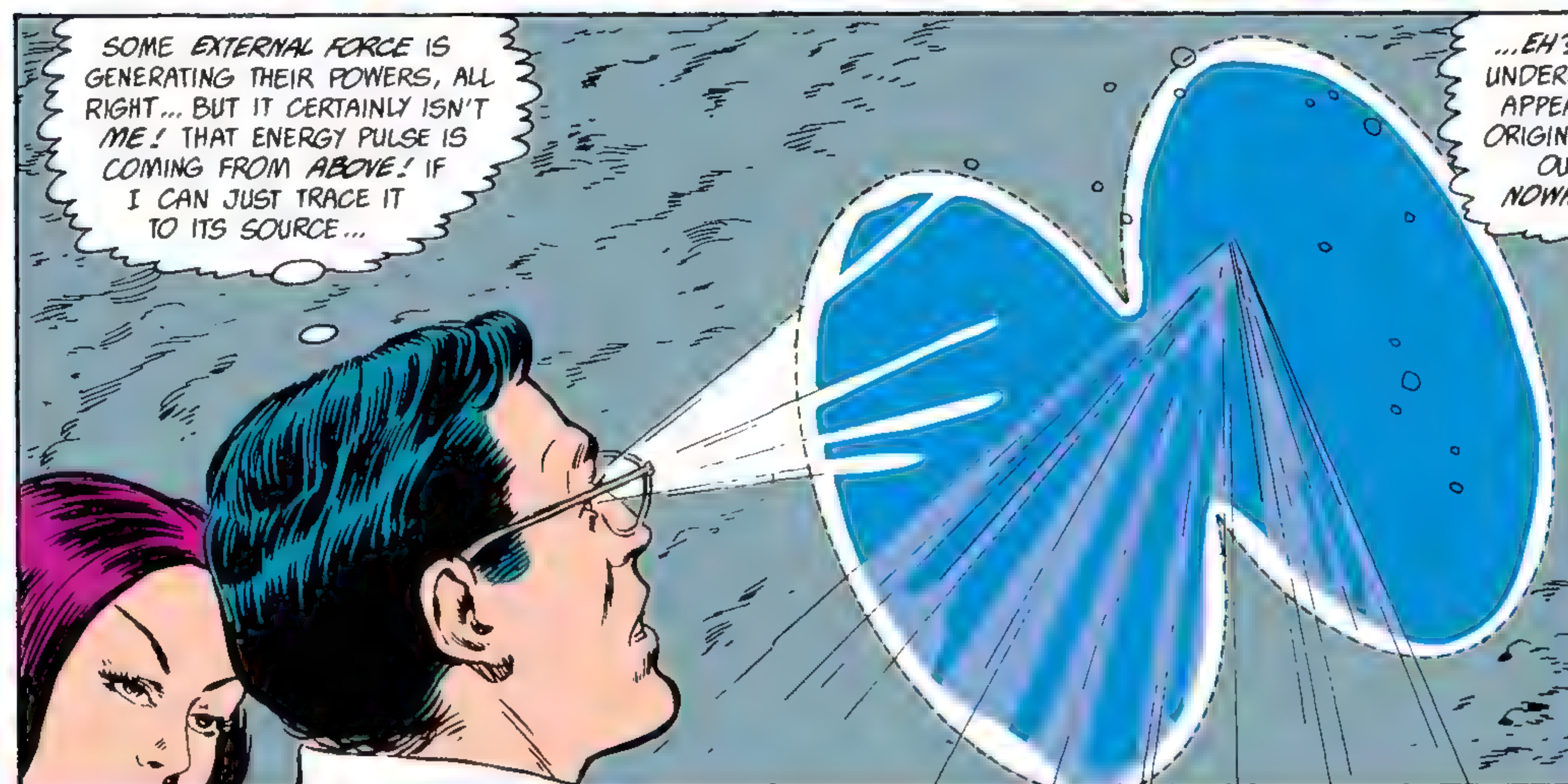
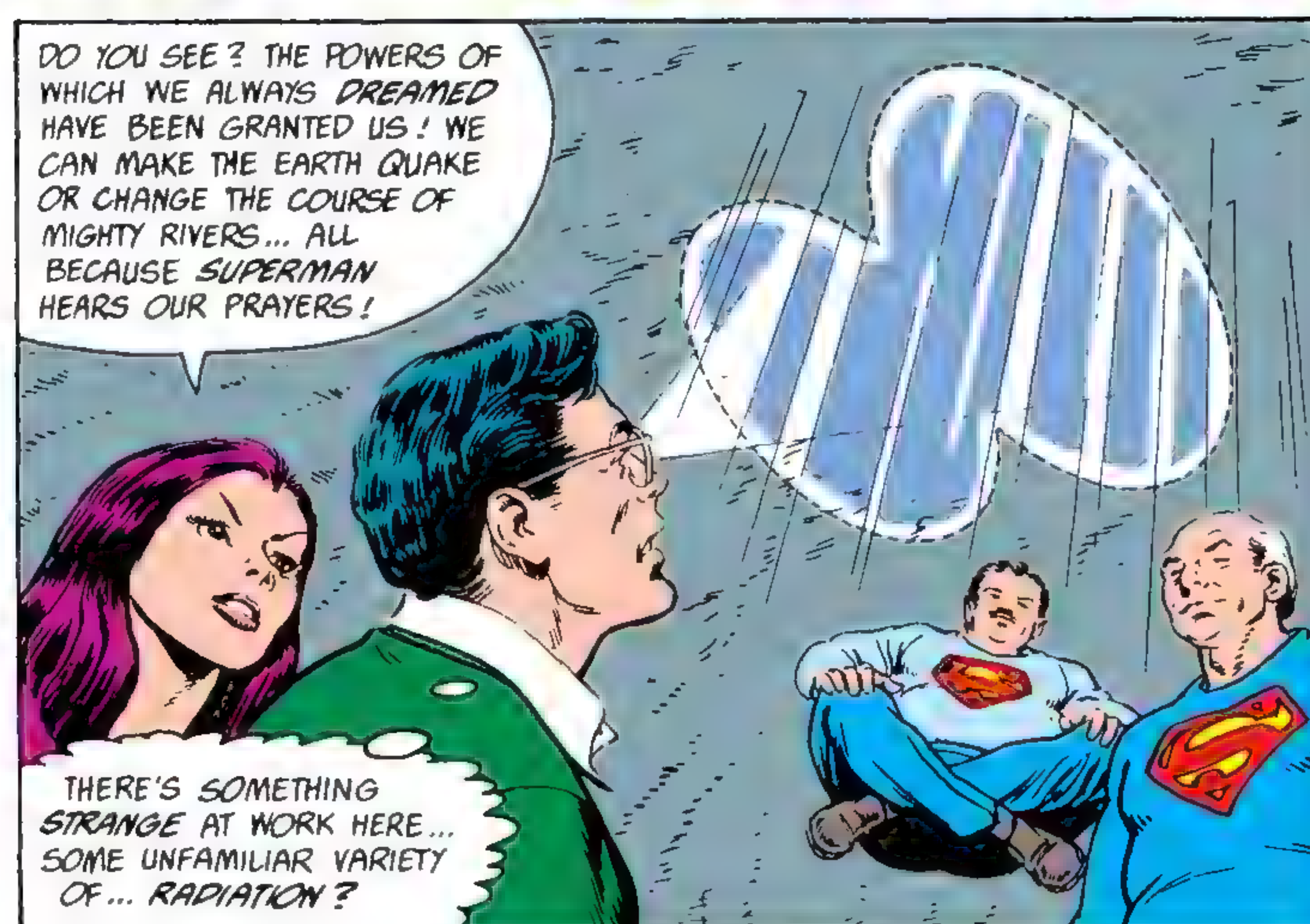
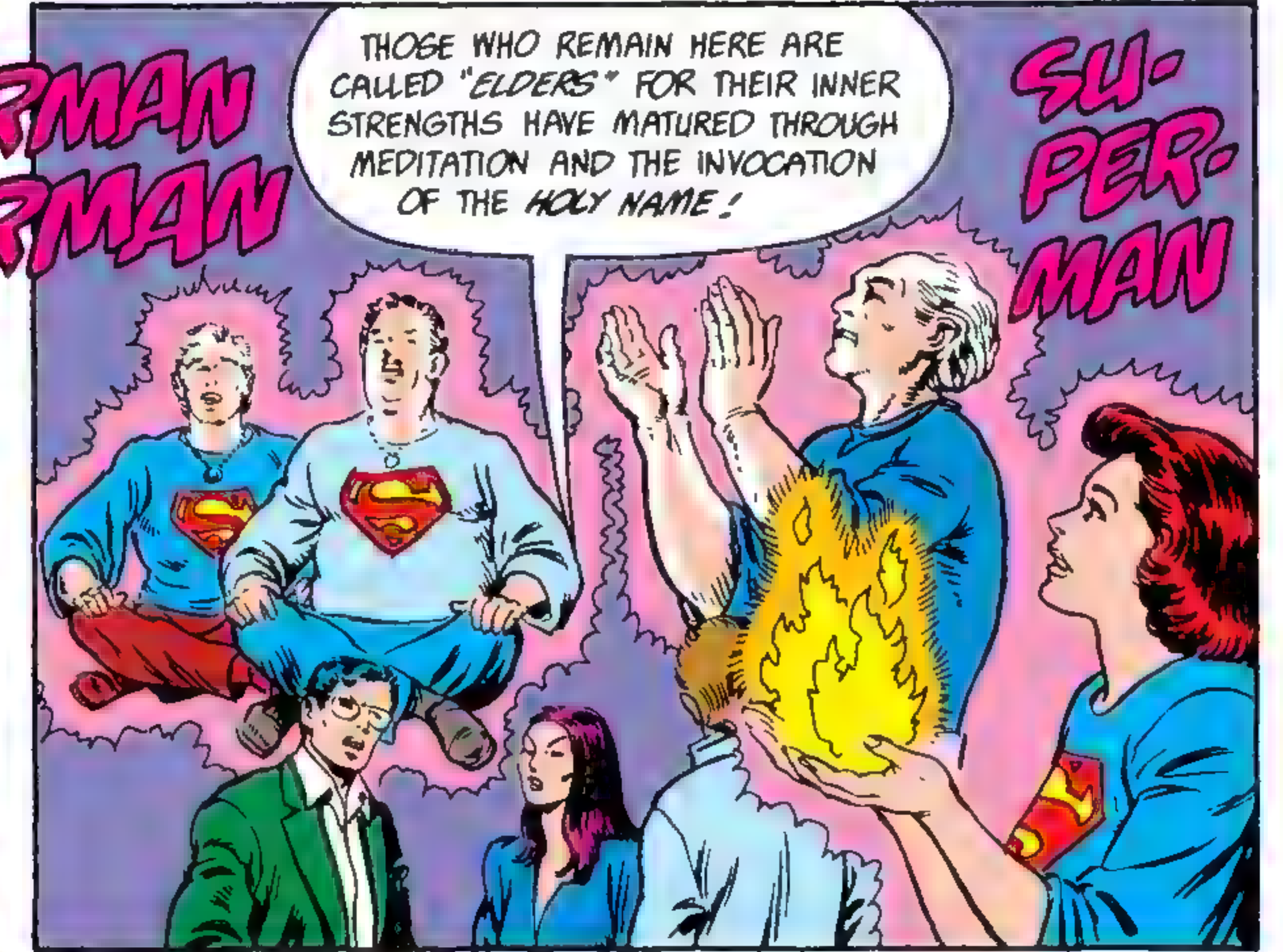
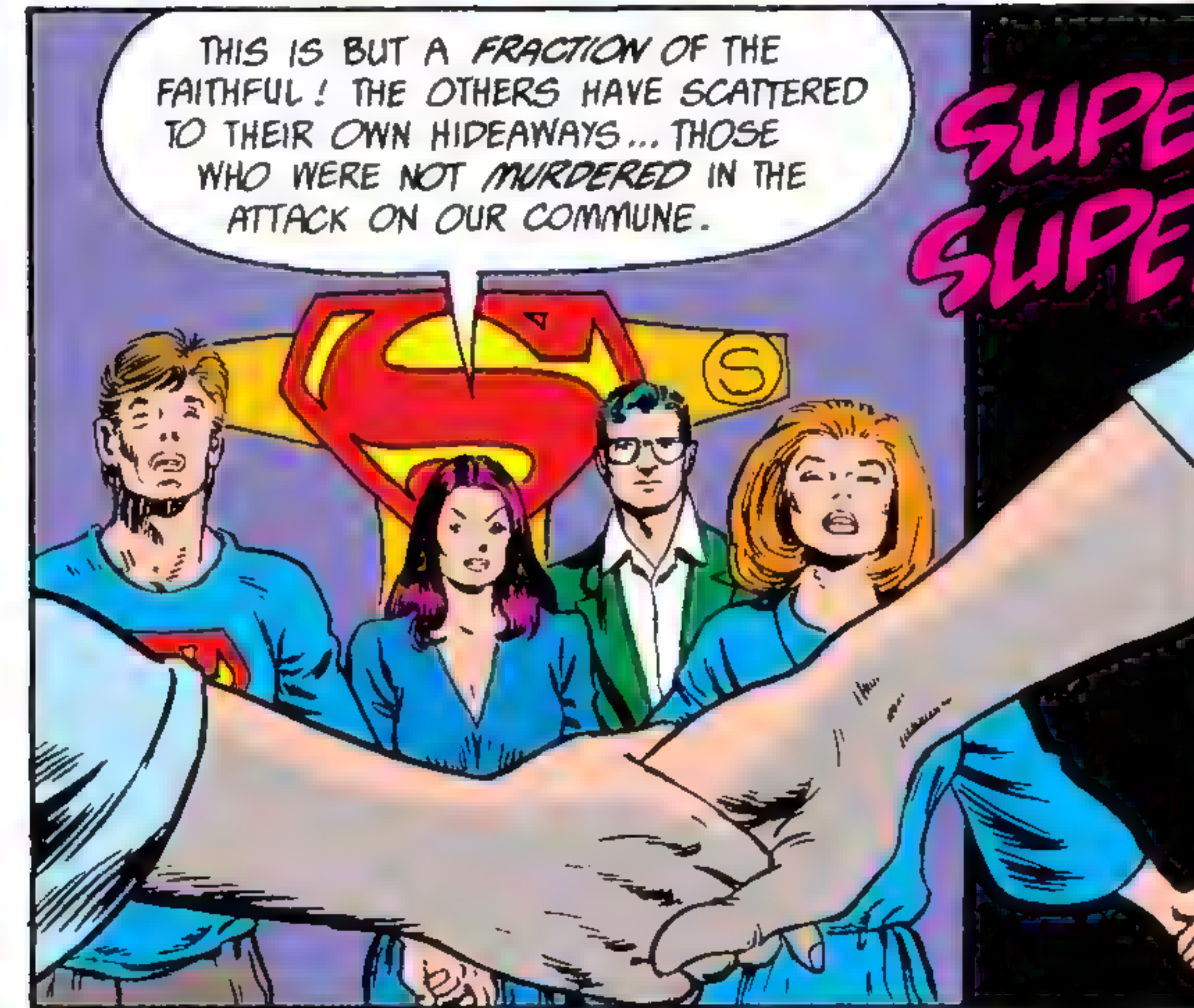
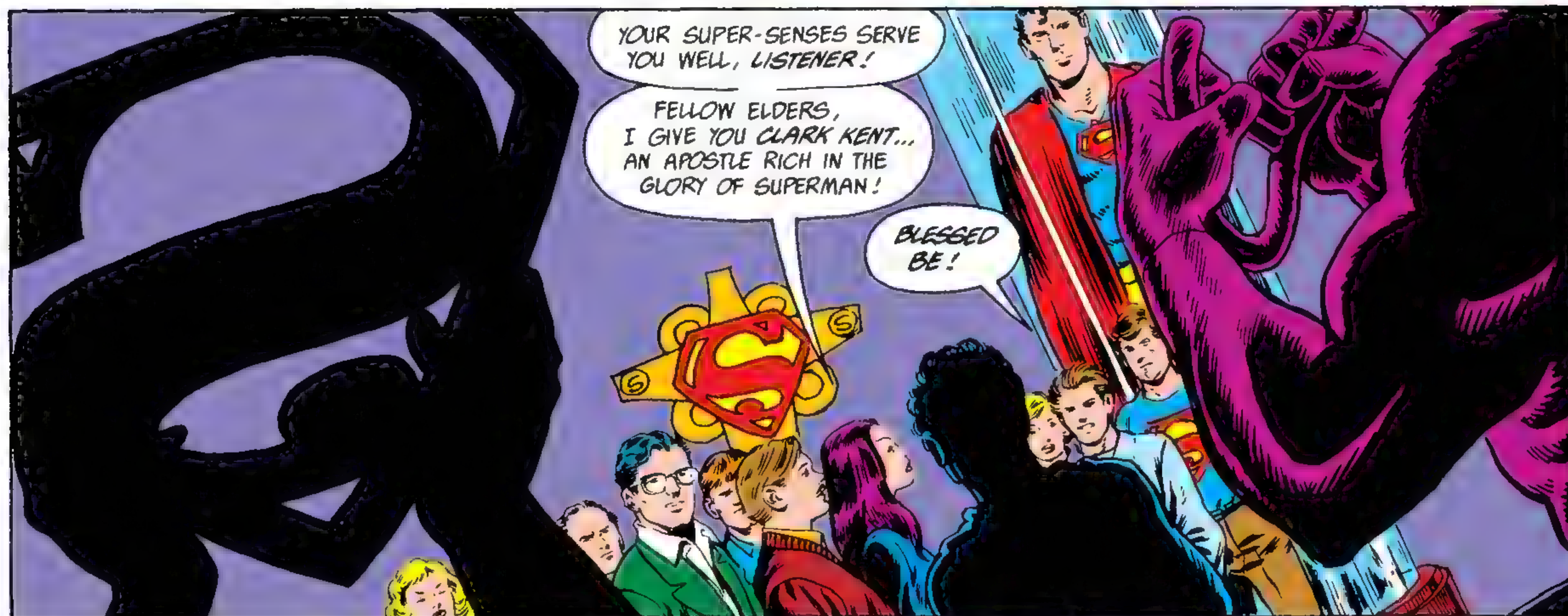
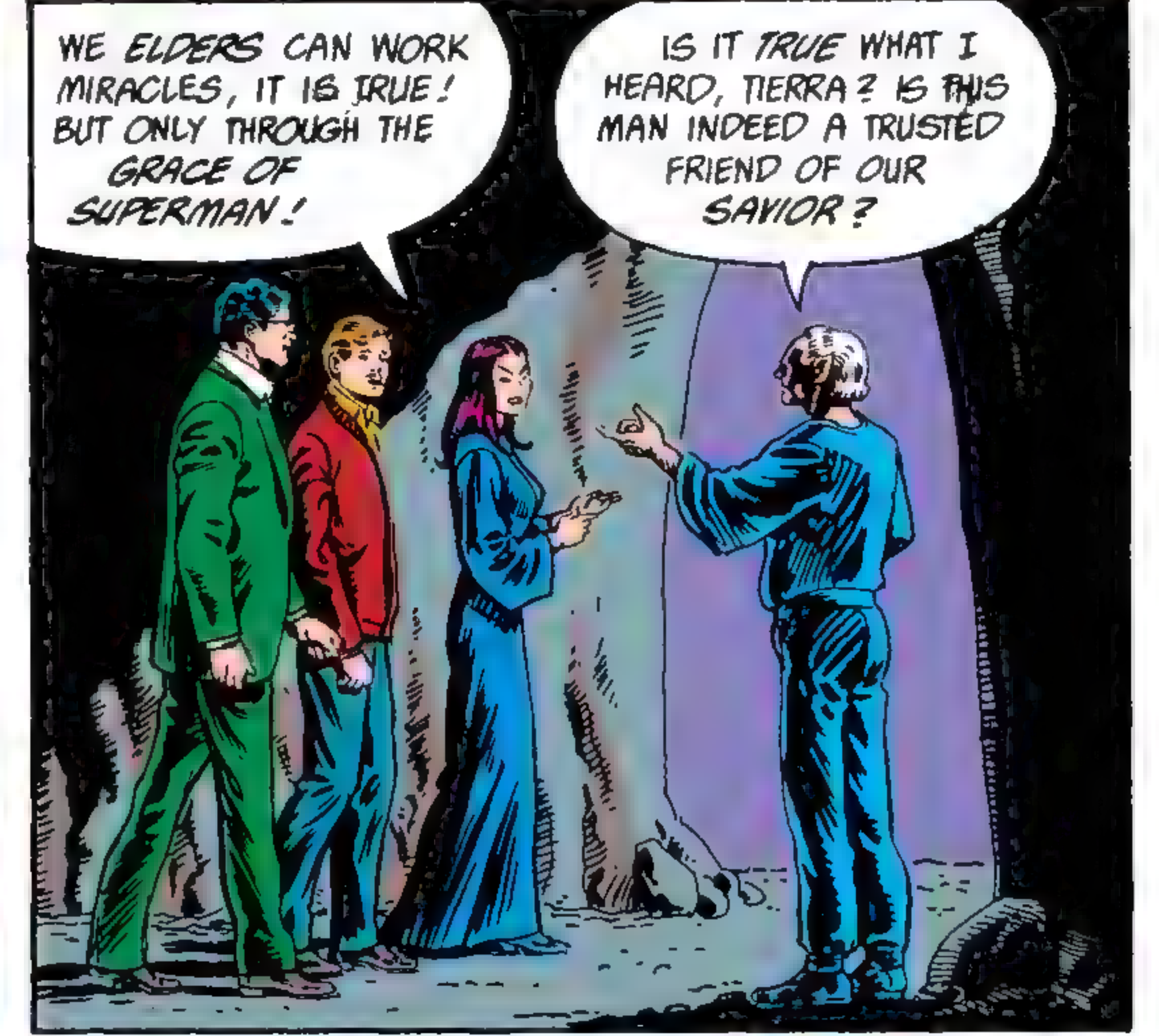
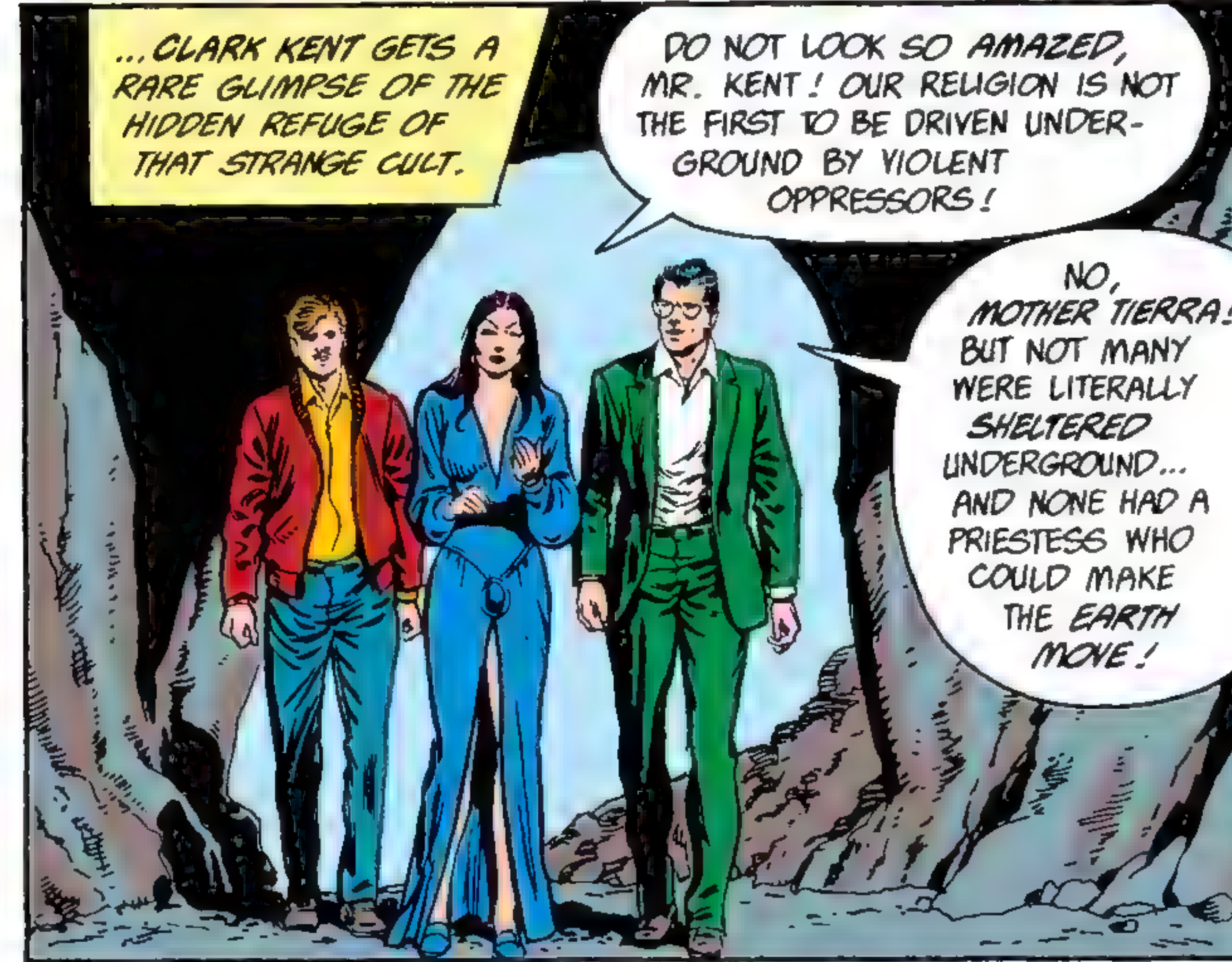
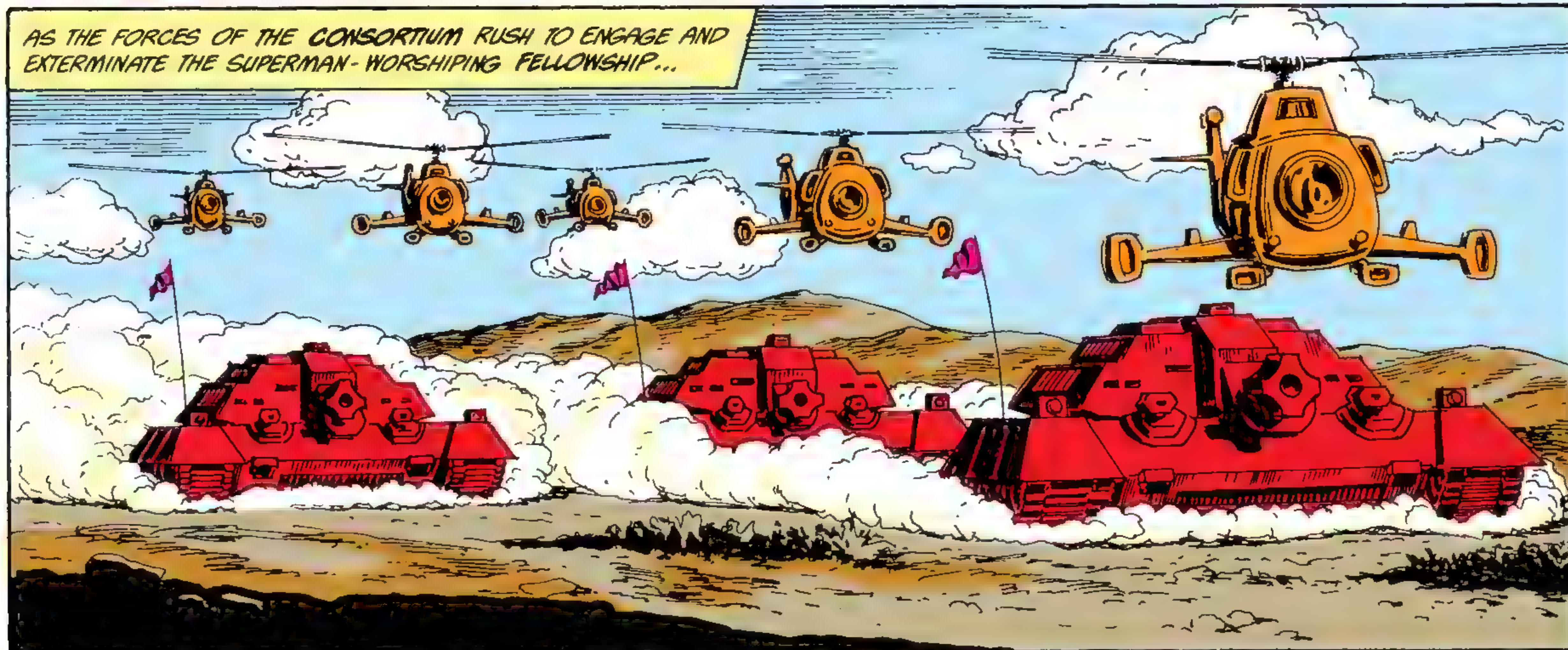
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THE POWER

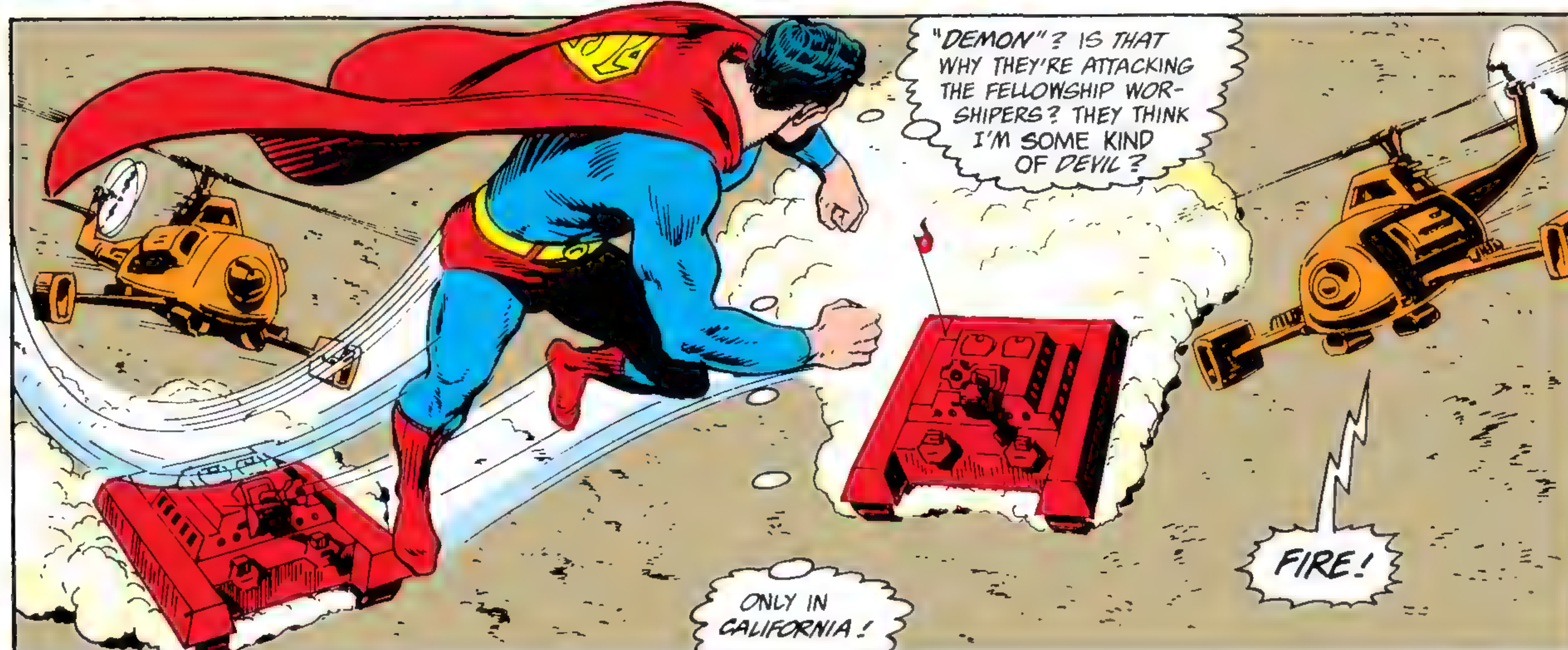
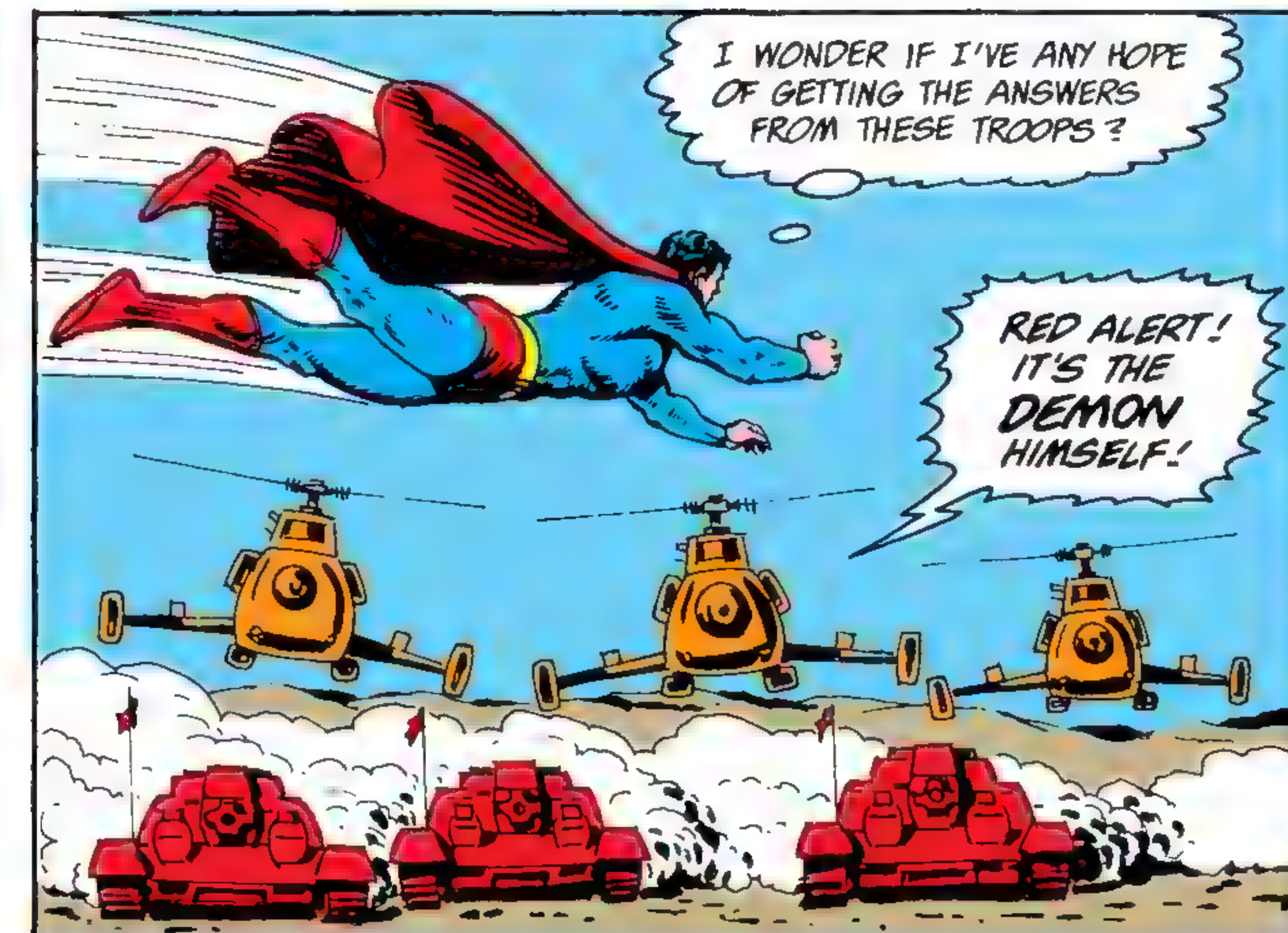
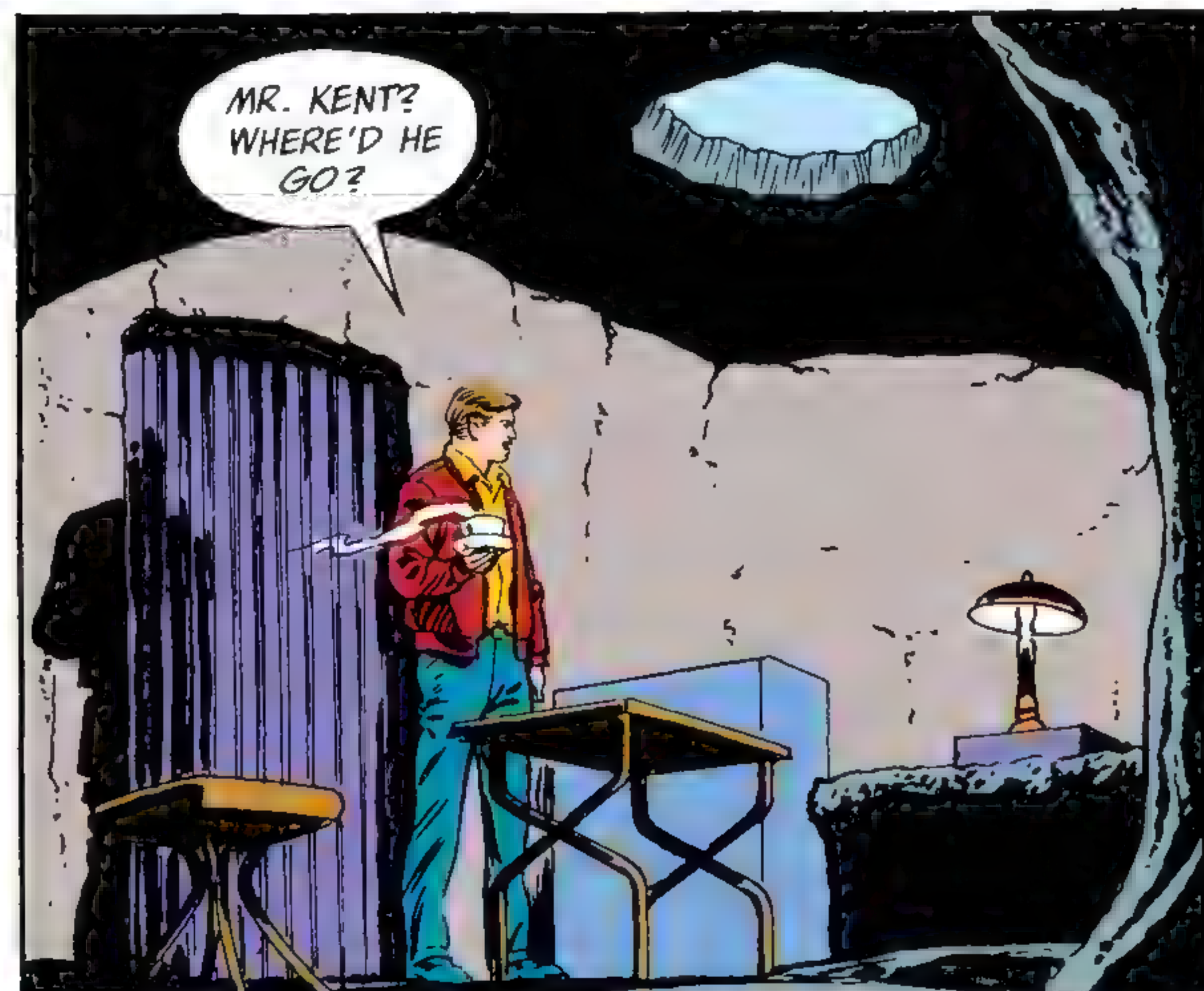
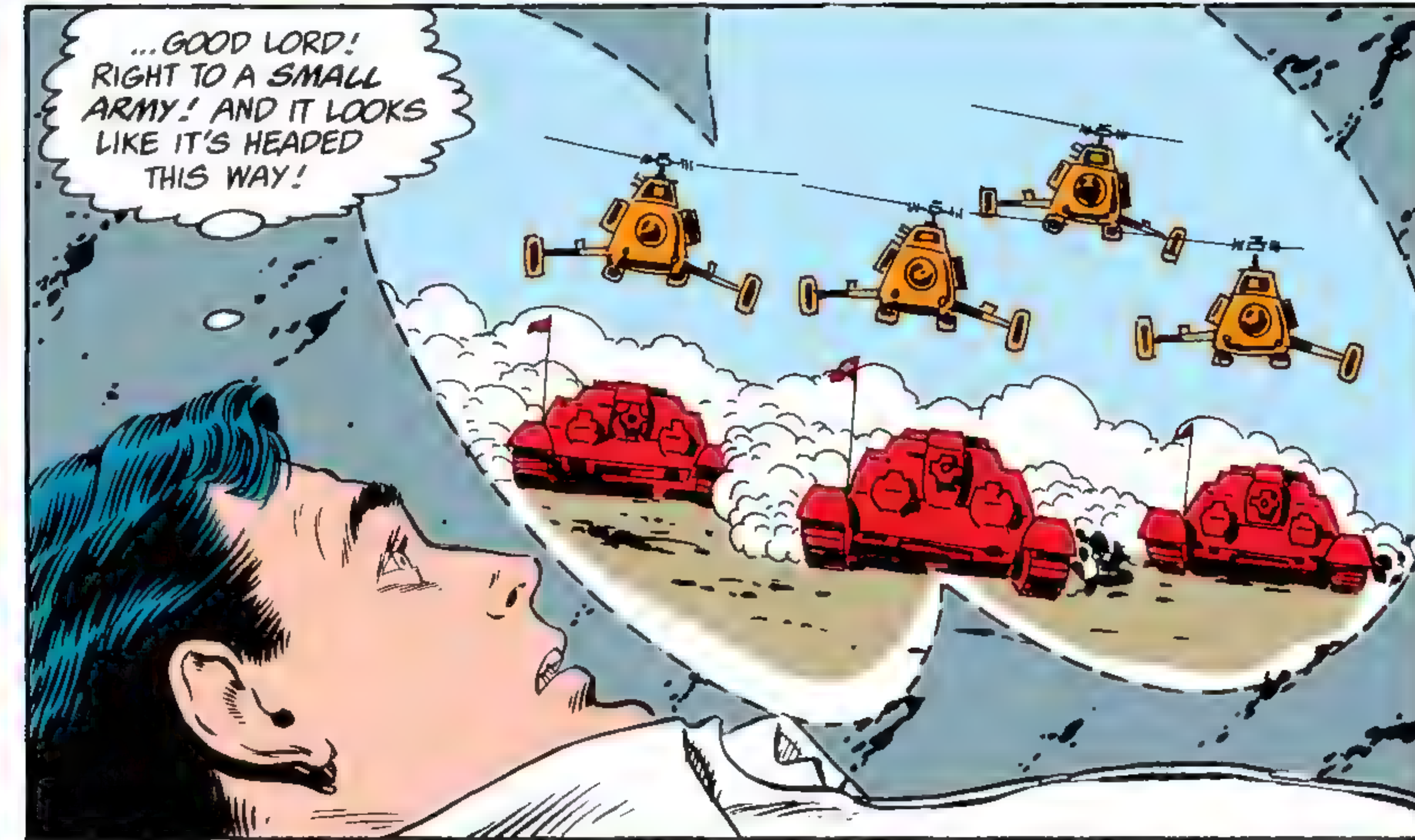
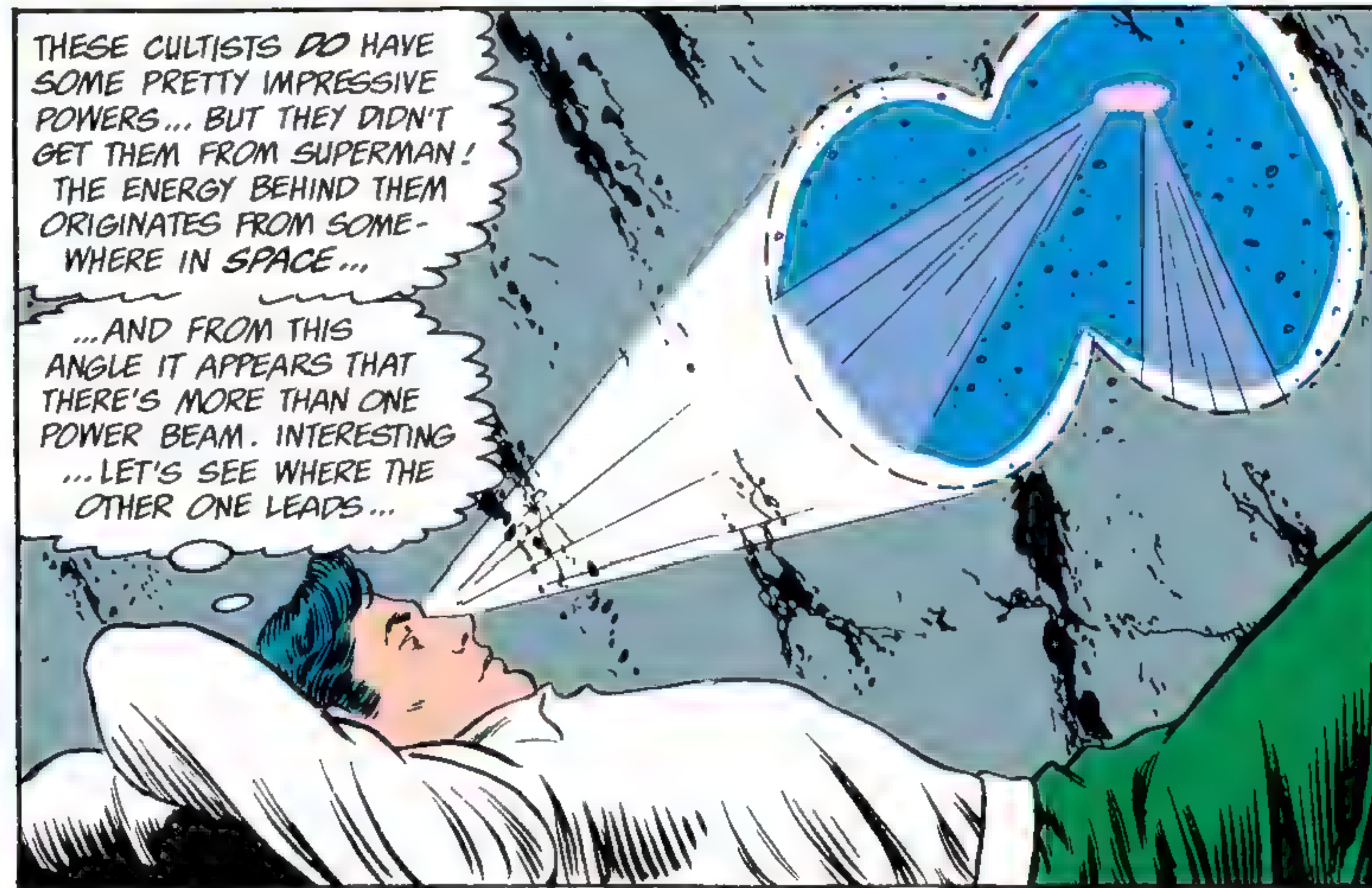
FROM BEYOND!

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



"POINT BLANK"

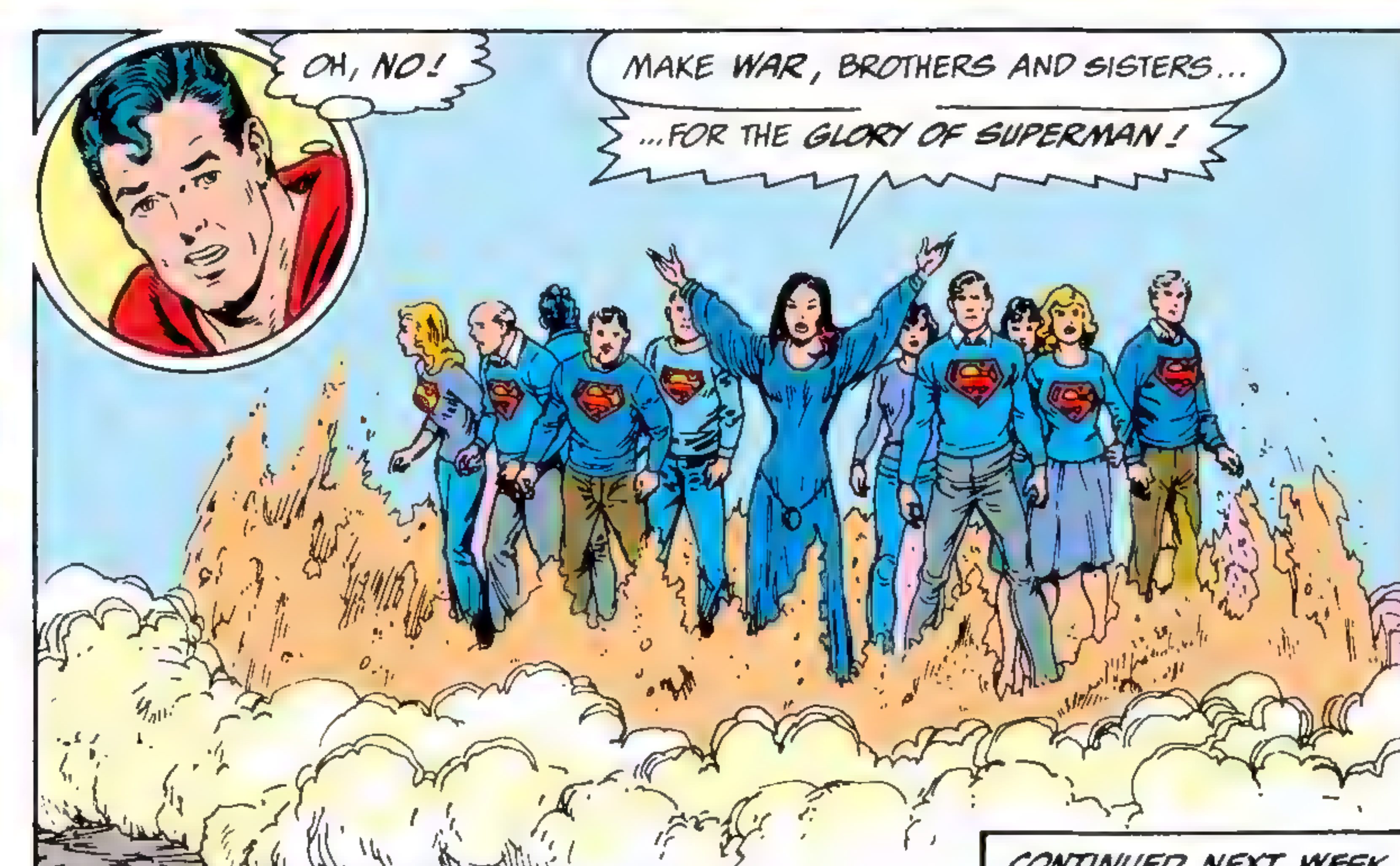
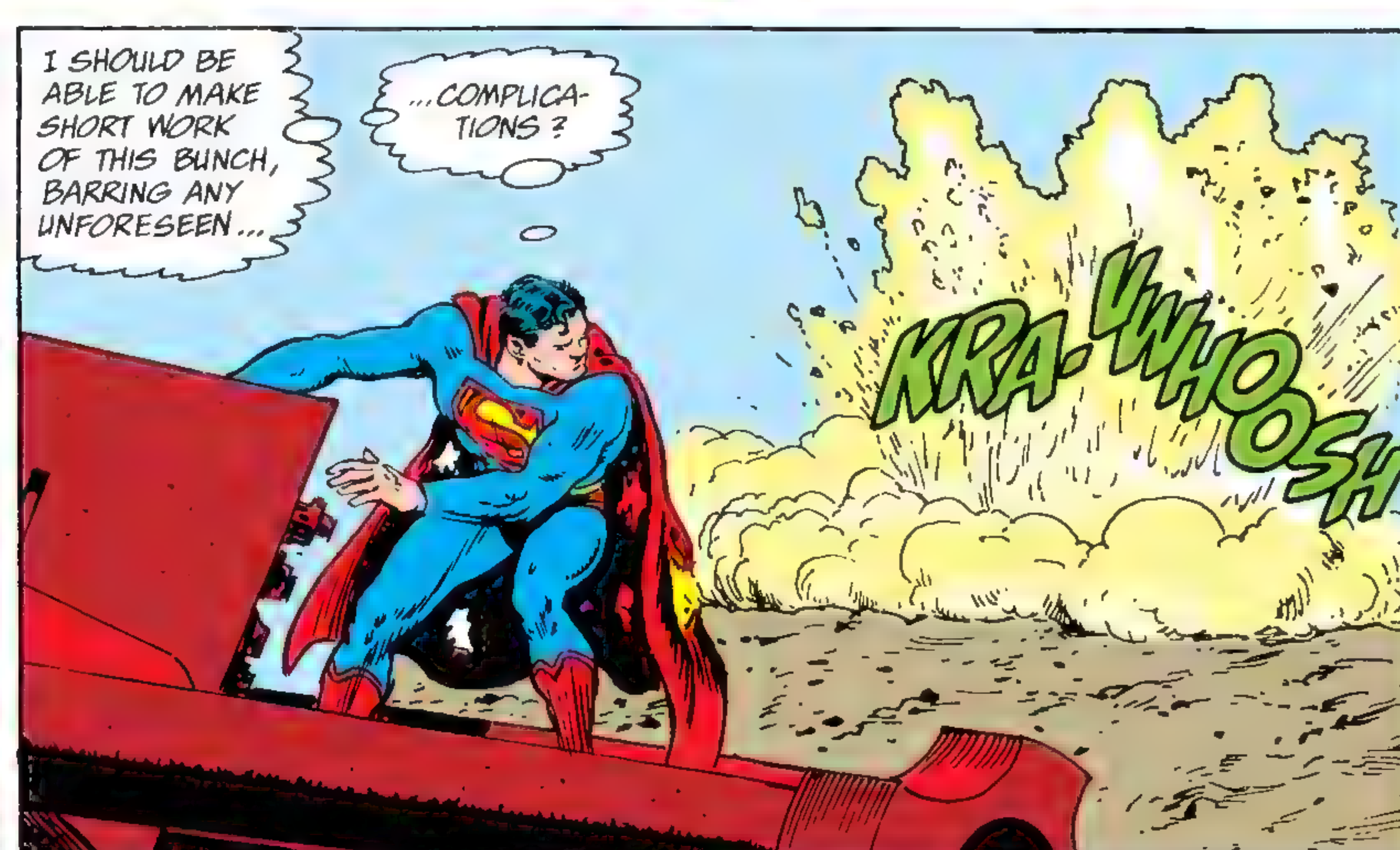
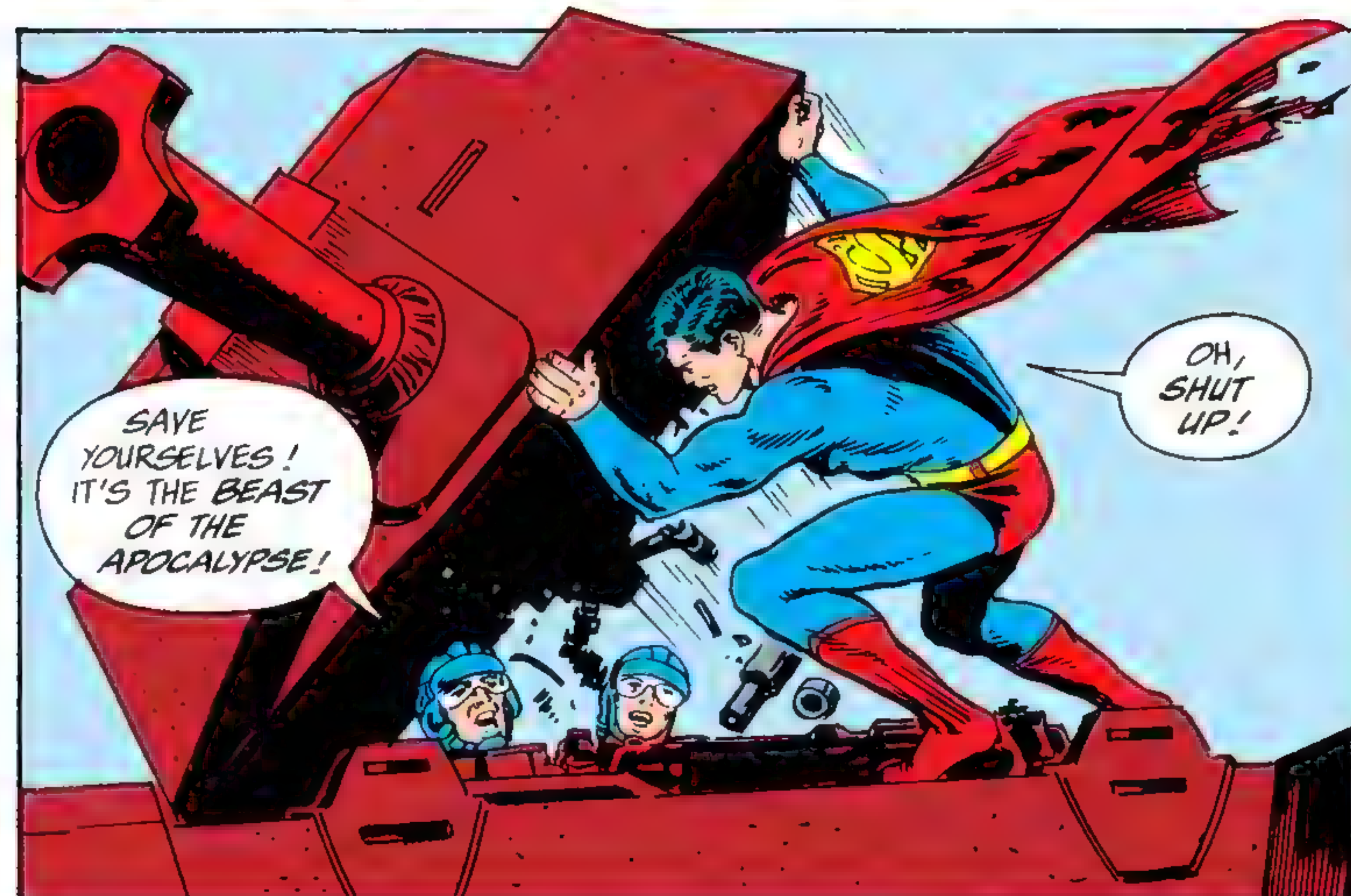
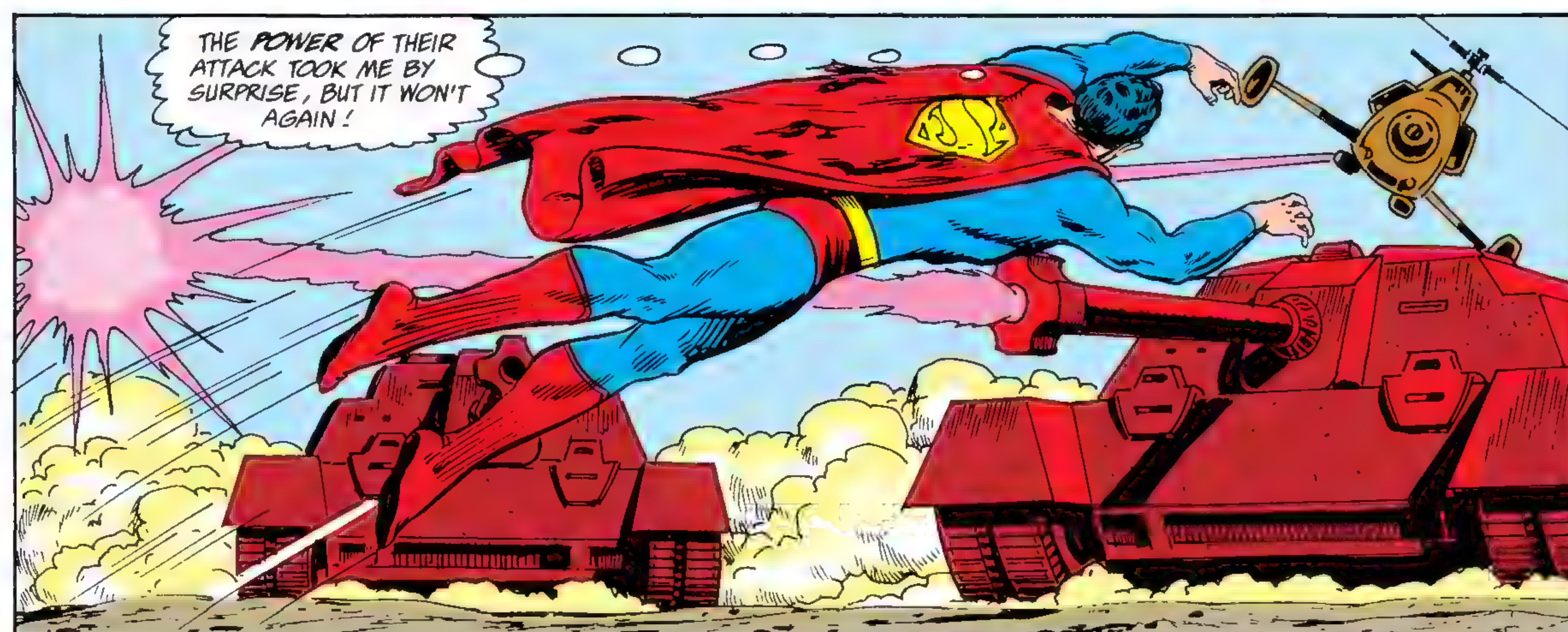
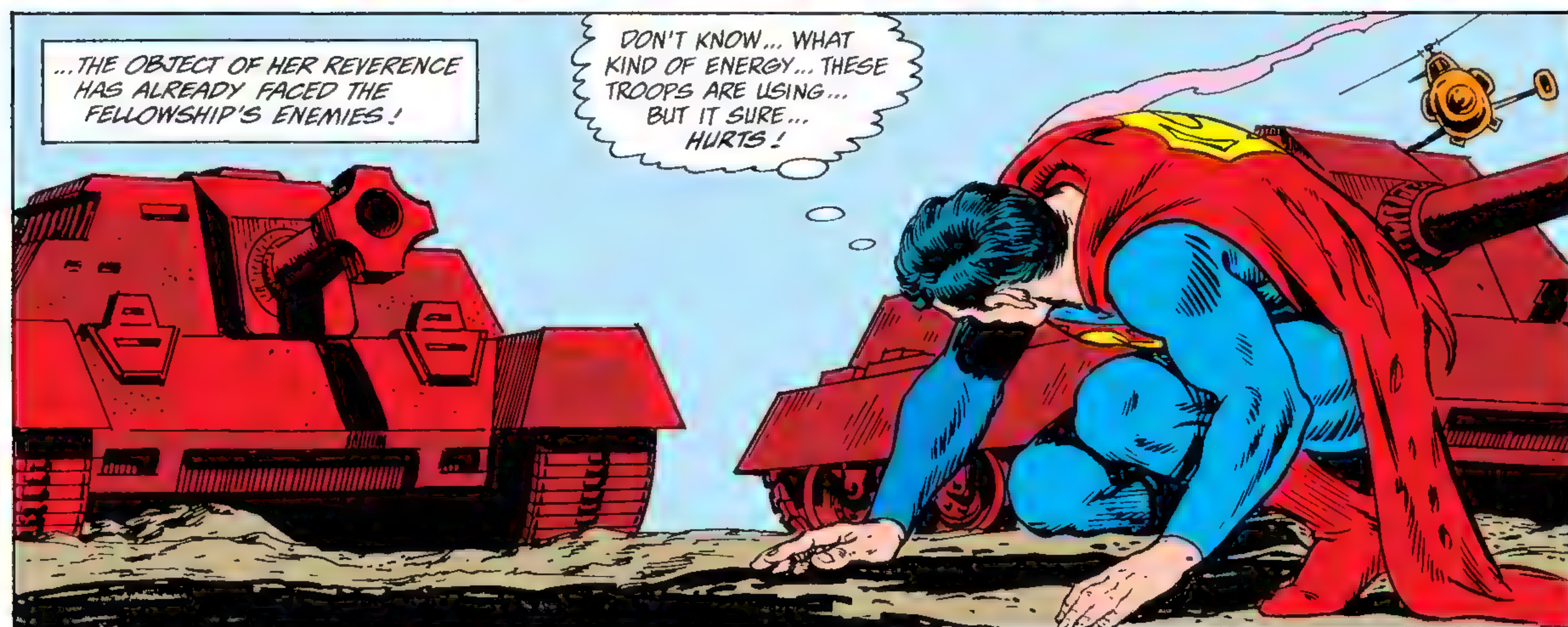
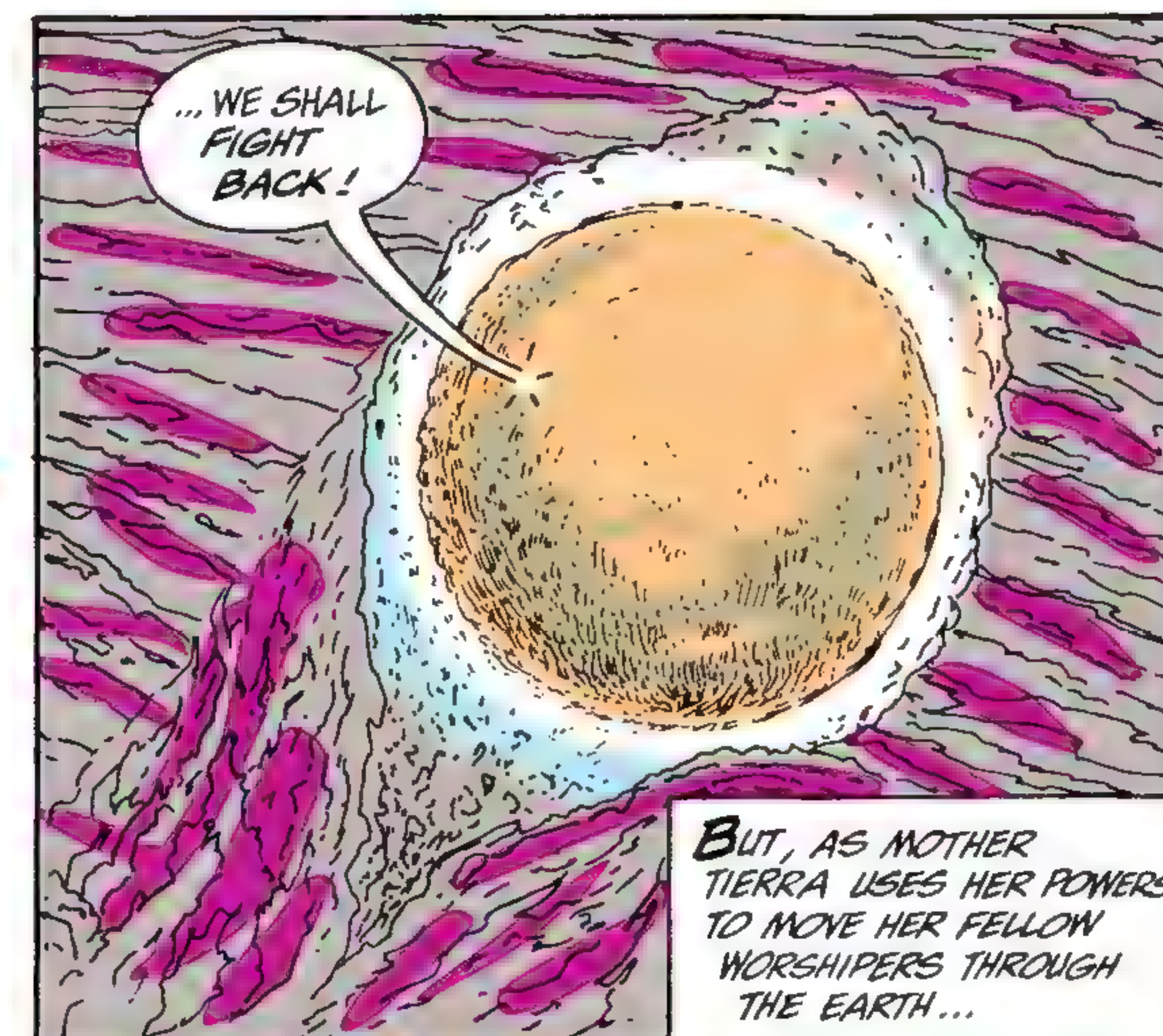
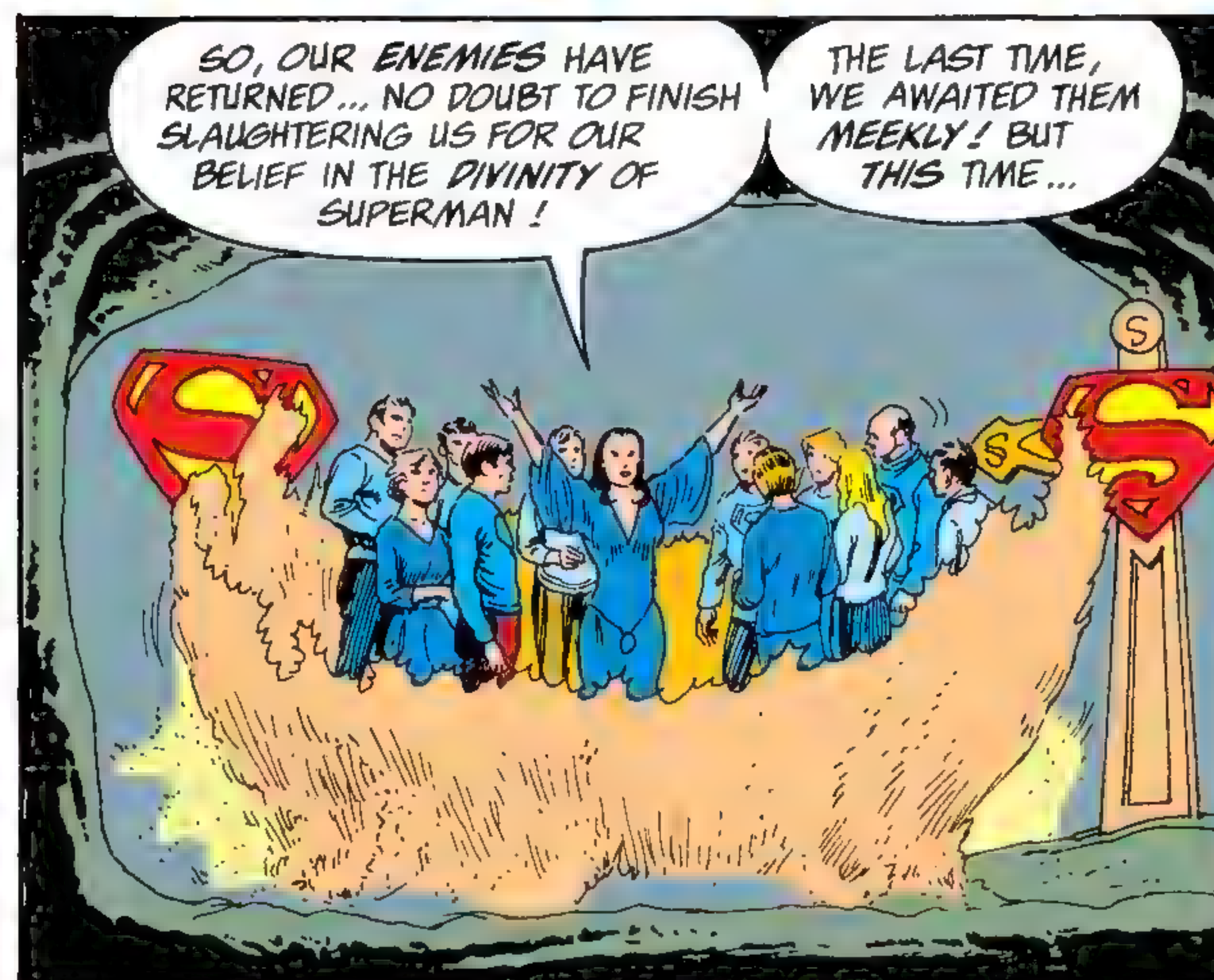
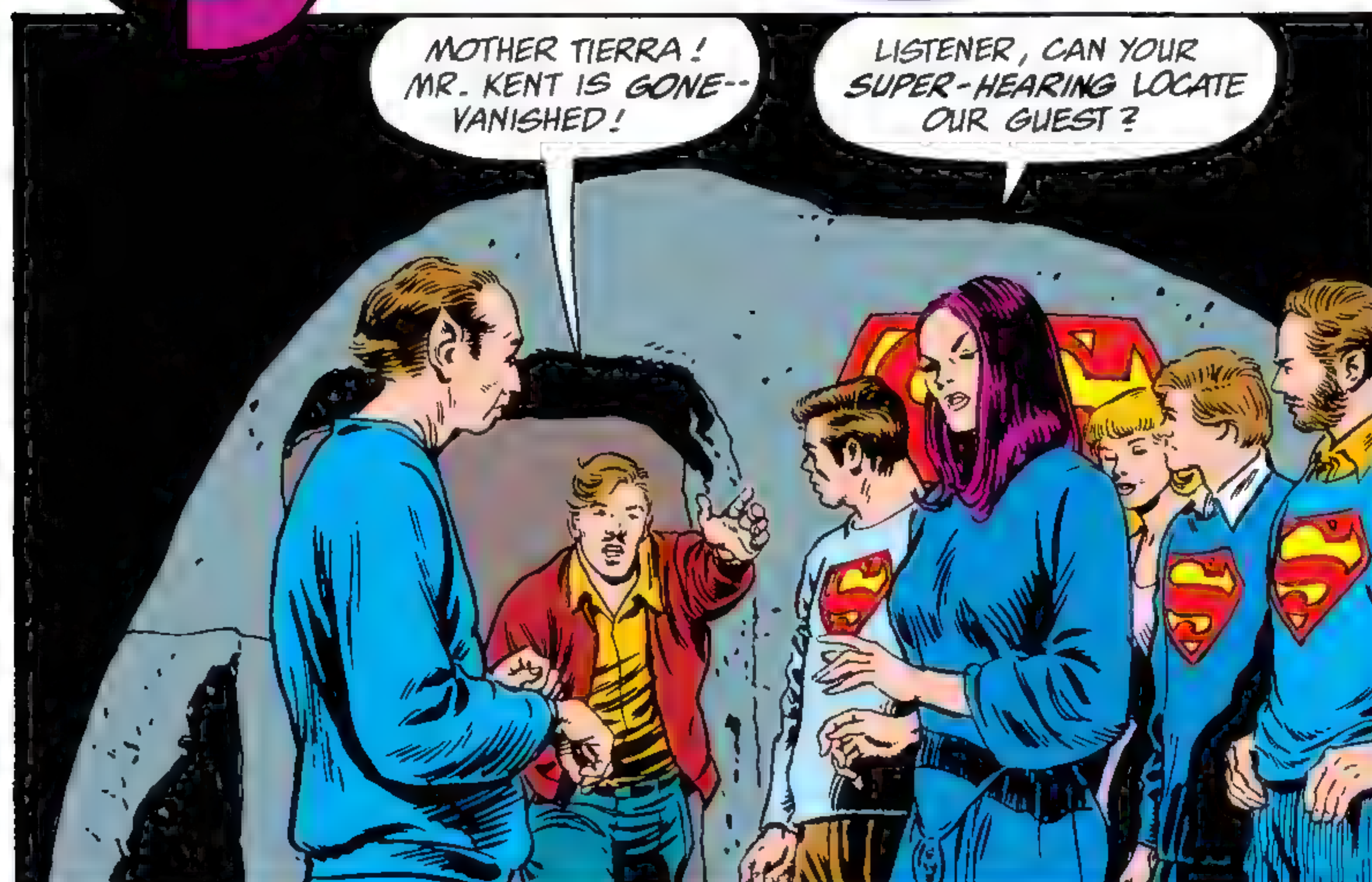
ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



LAST WEEK: CLARK KENT SLIPPED AWAY FROM THE SECRET SANCTUARY OF THE FELLOWSHIP TO STOP AN IMPENDING ATTACK BY CONSORTIUM TROOPS... AS SUPERMAN!

HOLY WAR

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZILKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR

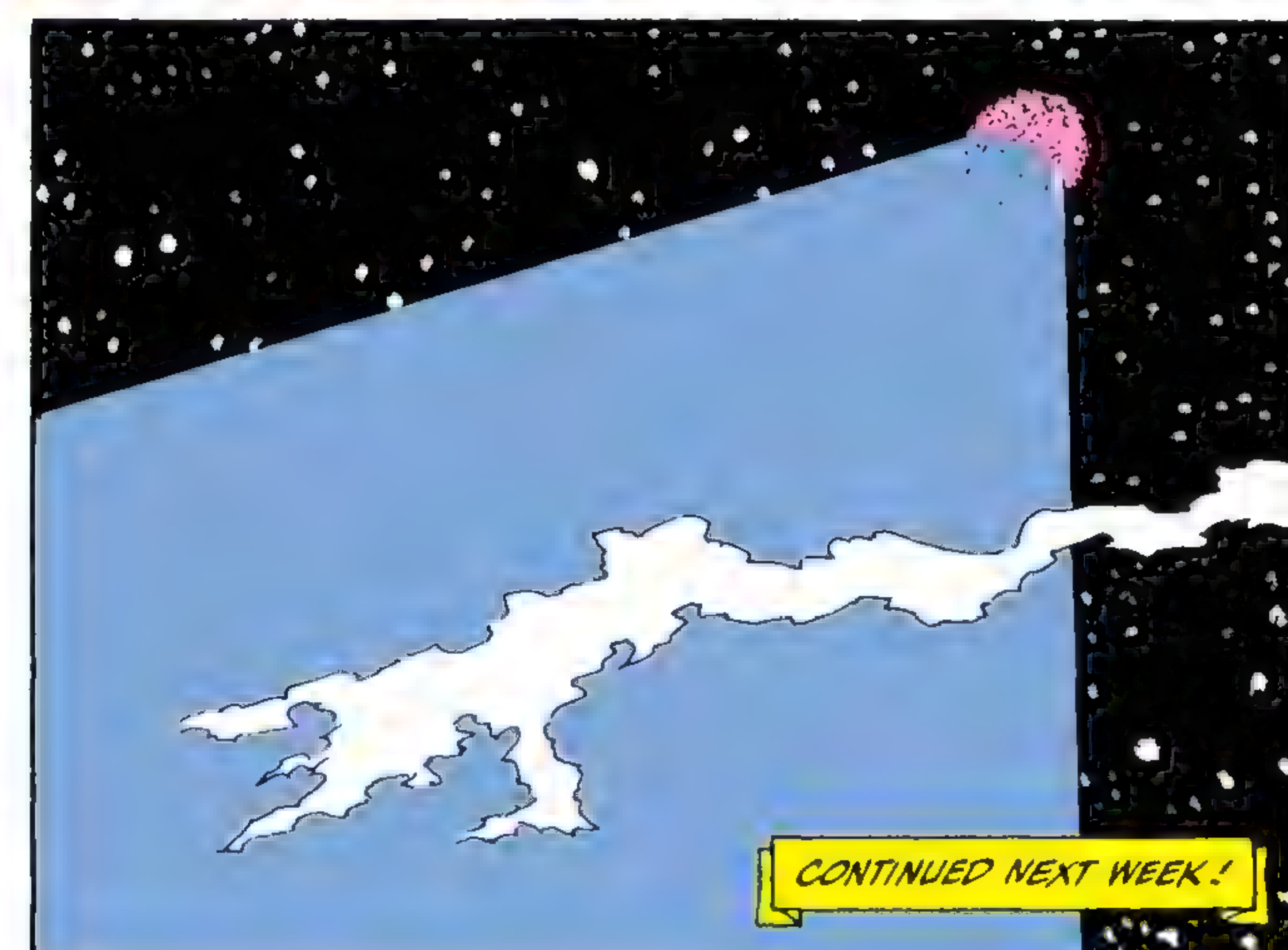
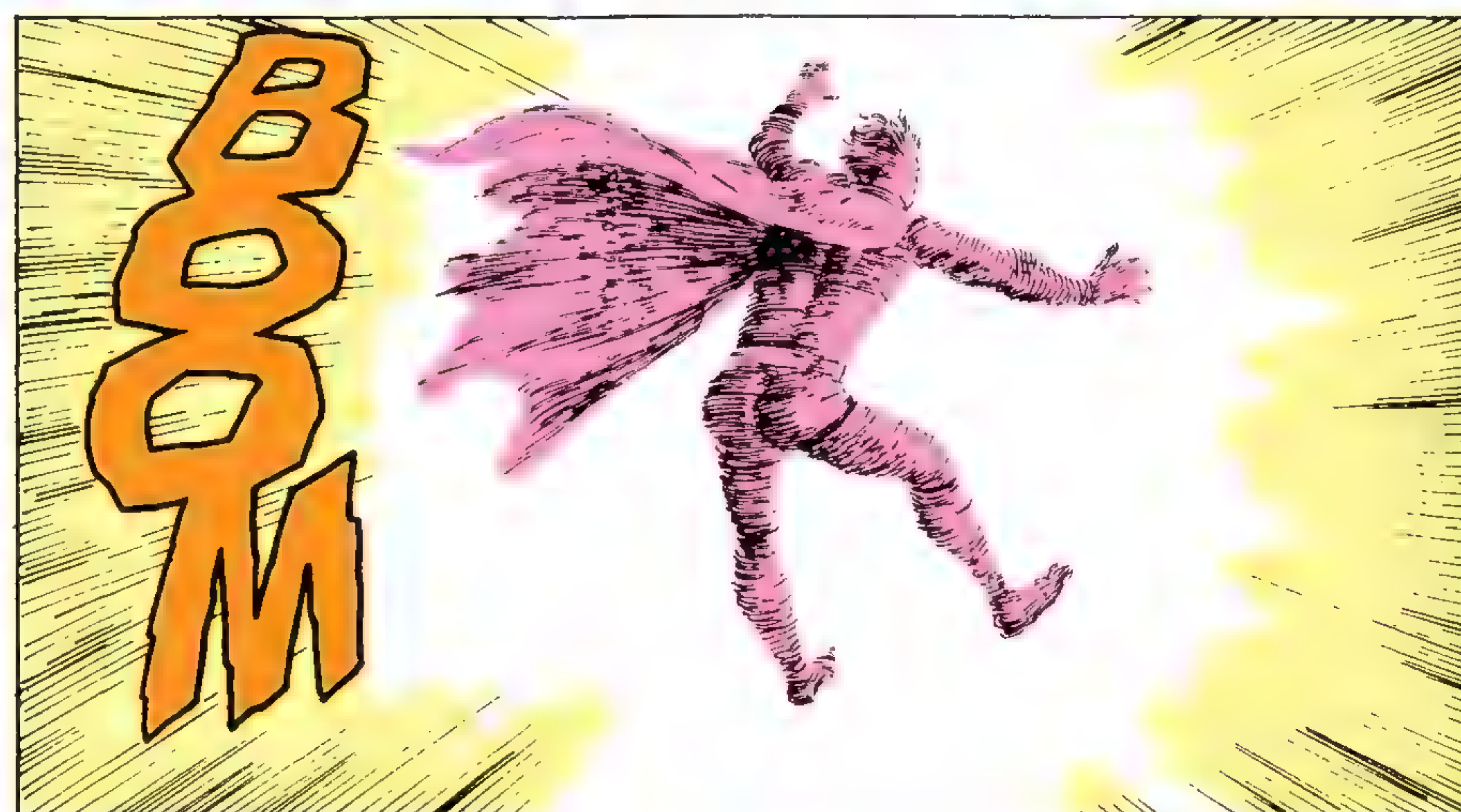
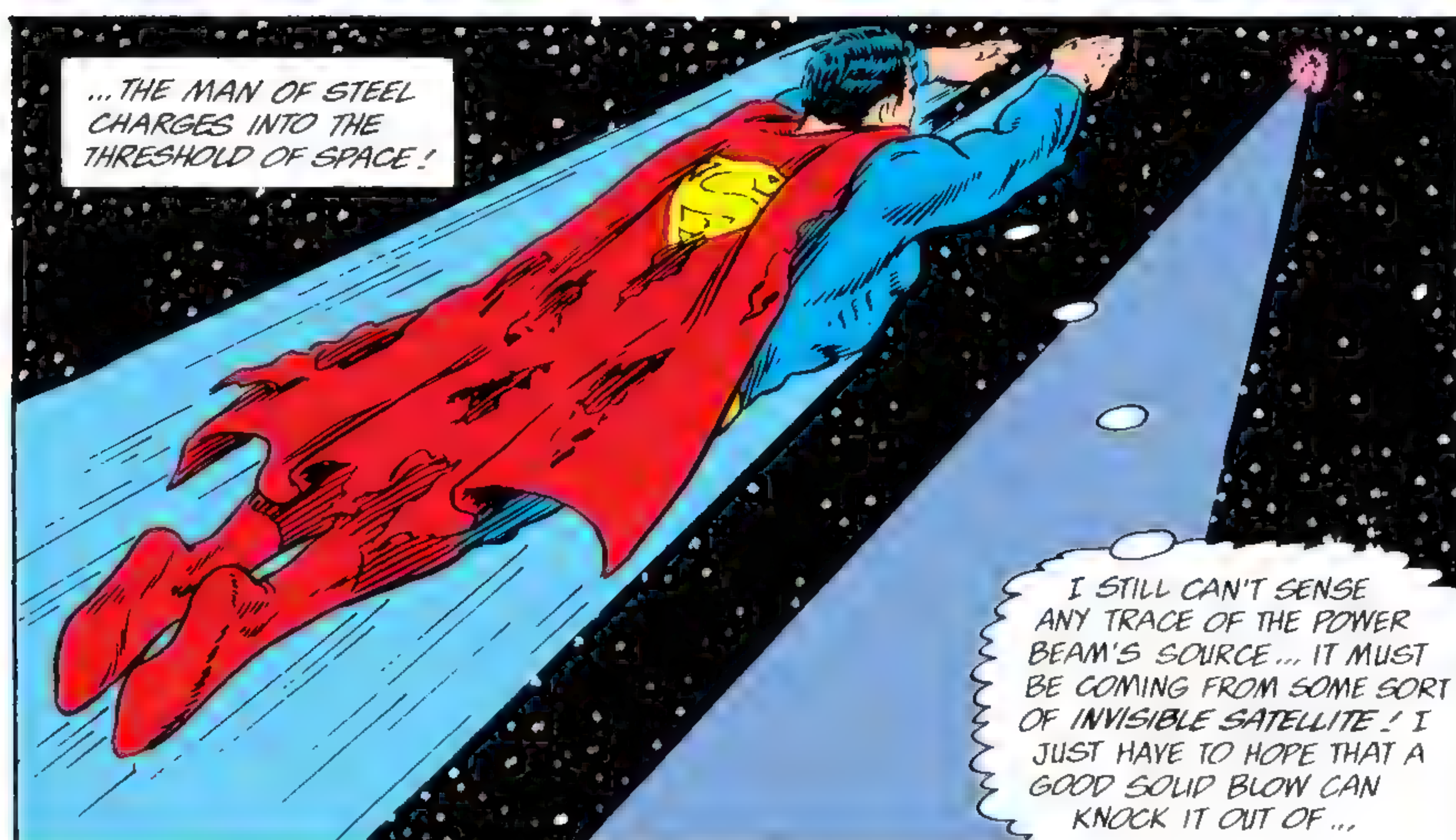
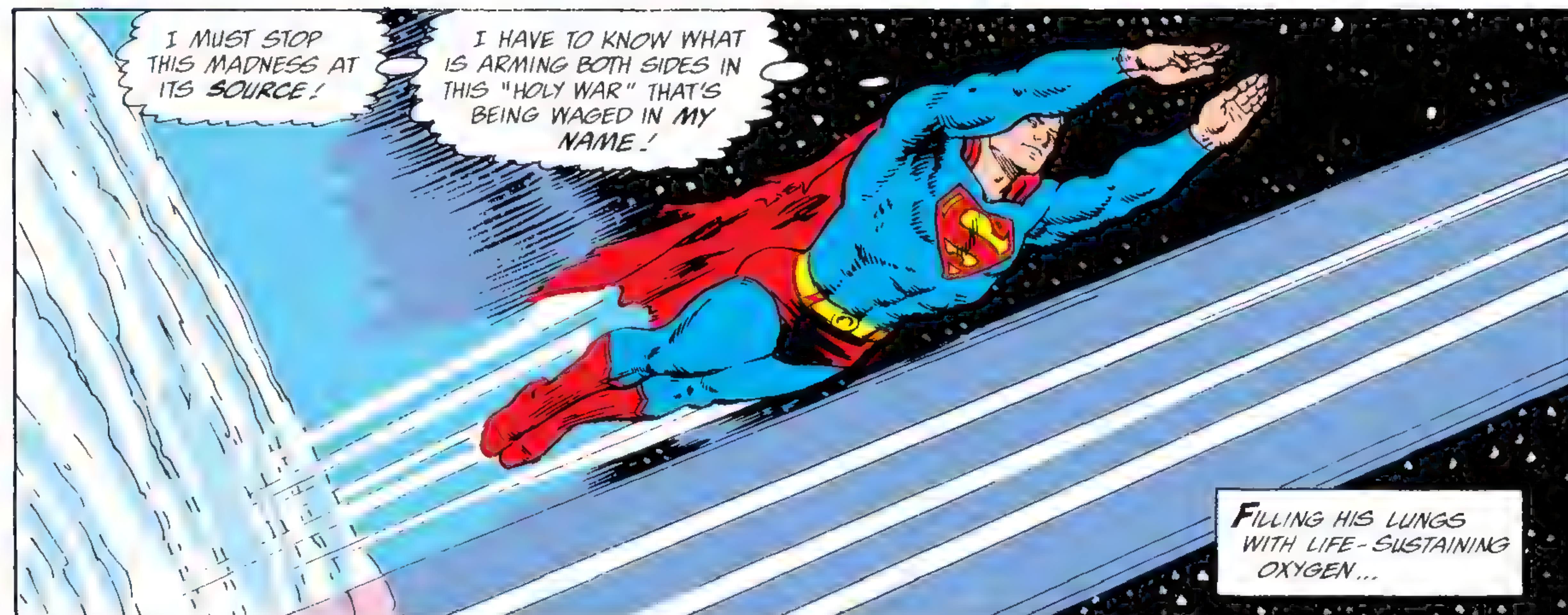
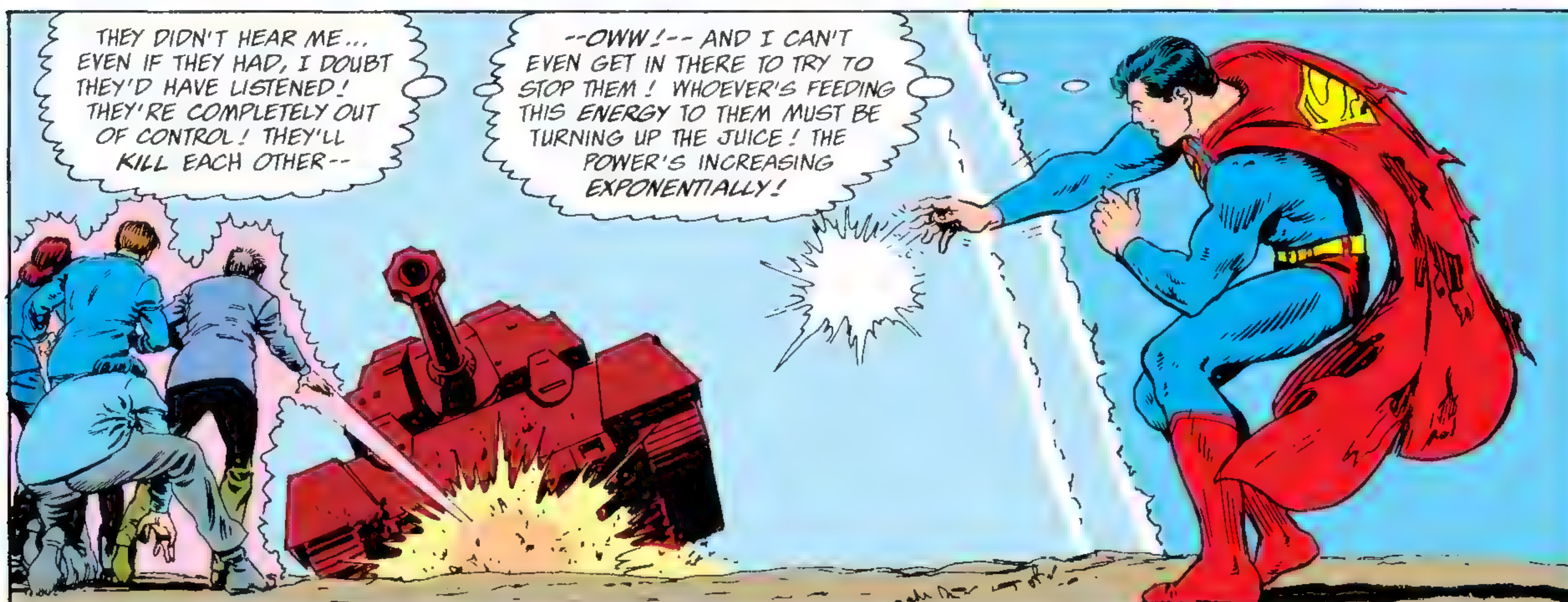
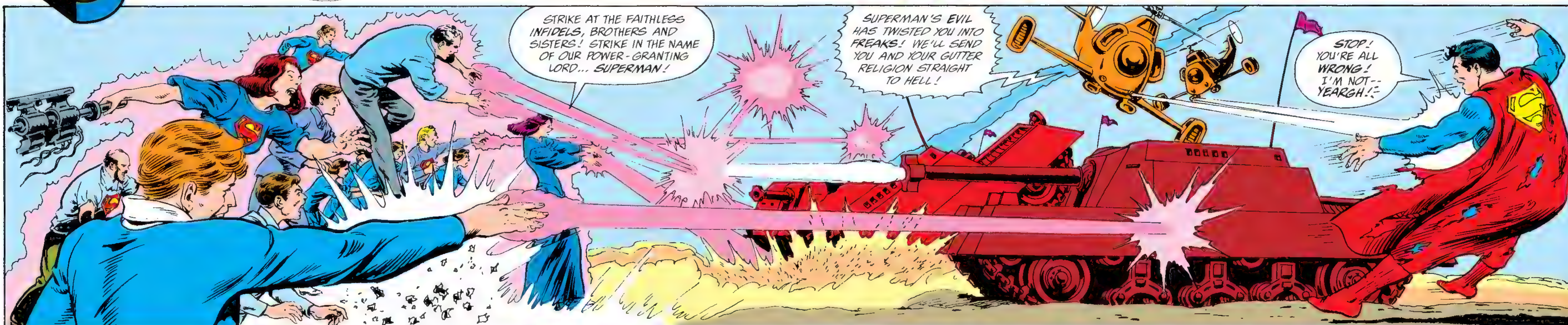


CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!

TWO MYSTERIOUS GROUPS--
ONE THAT WORSHIPS
SUPERMAN, AND ONE THAT
REVILES HIM--COLLIDE ON
A DESERT BATTLEFIELD!

"BLOOD AND SAND"

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZILKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR

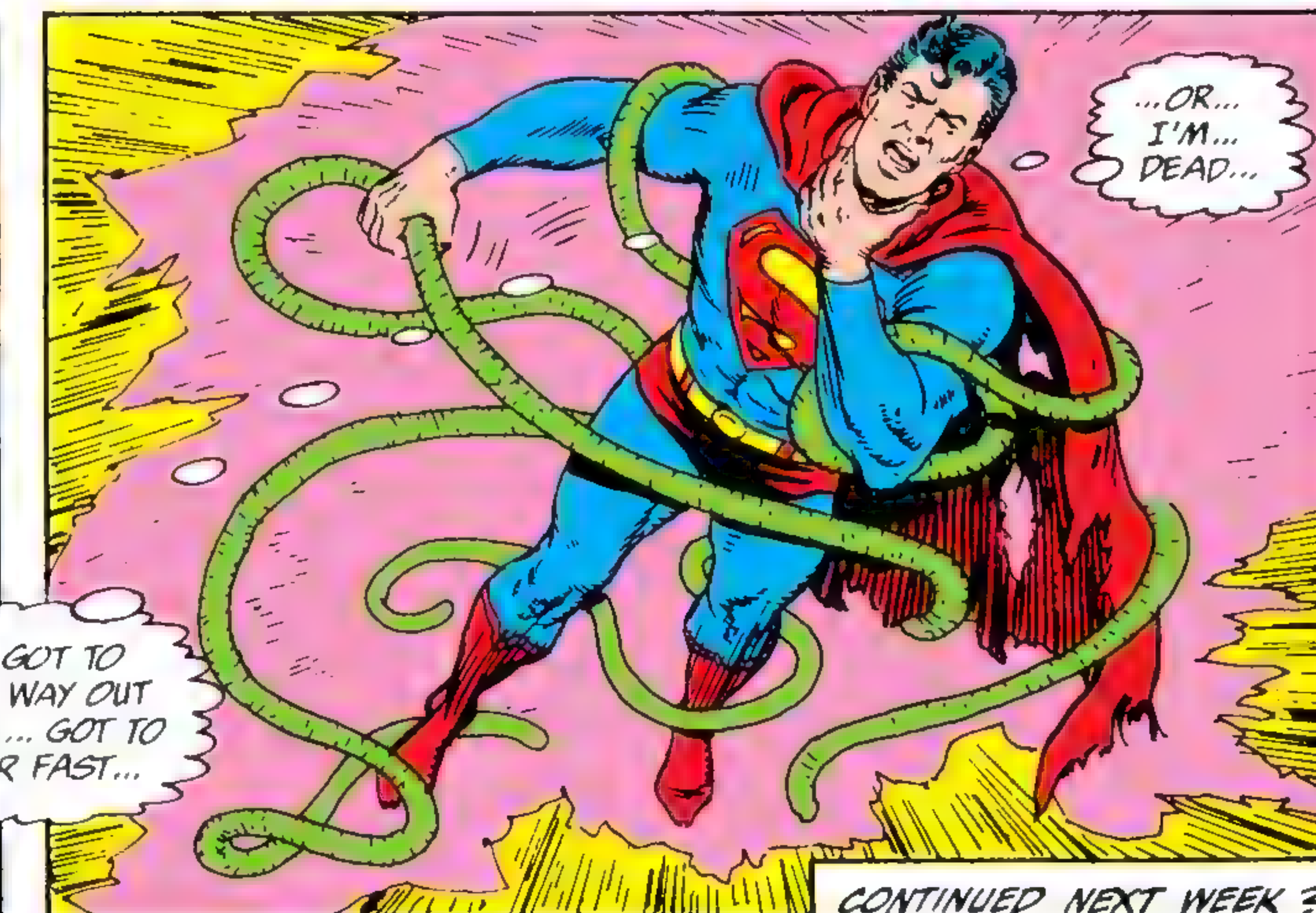
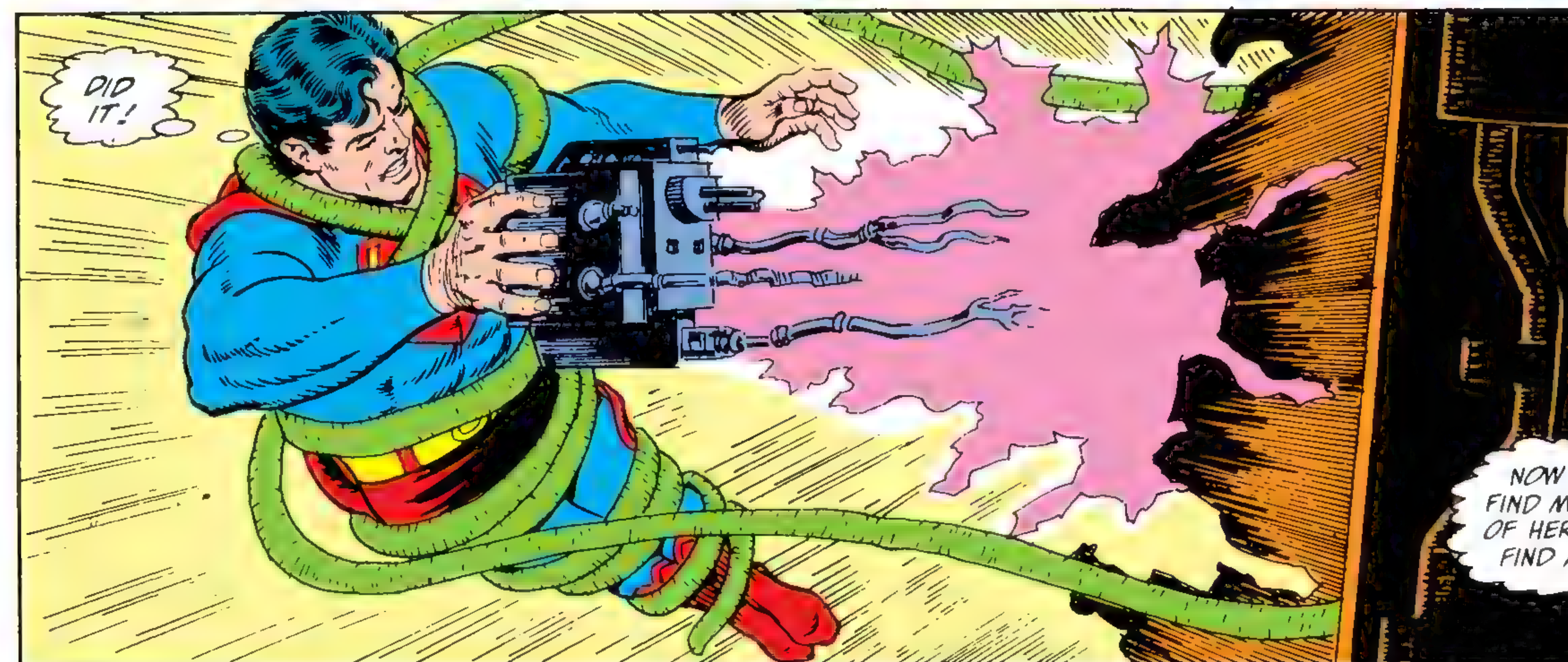
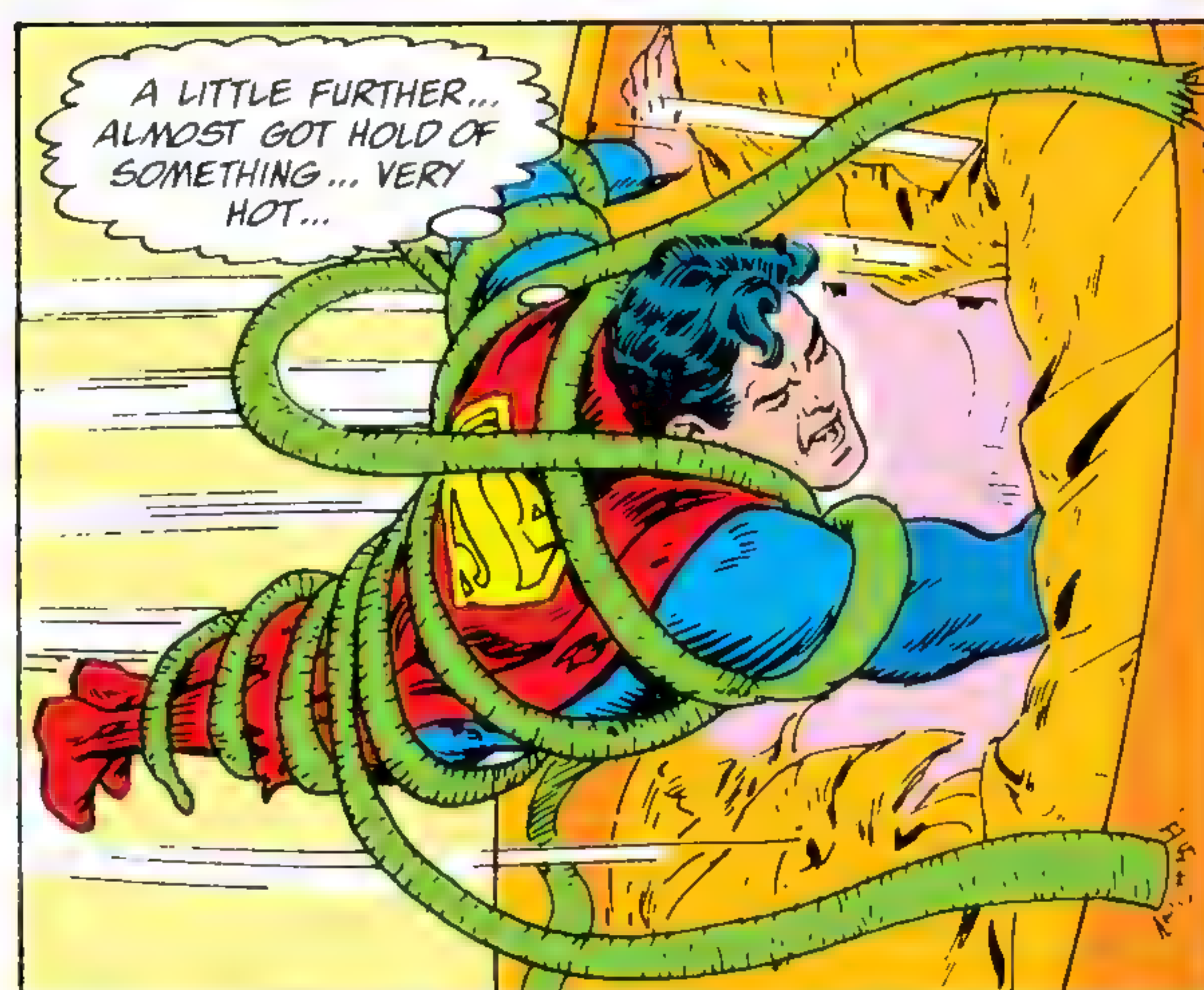
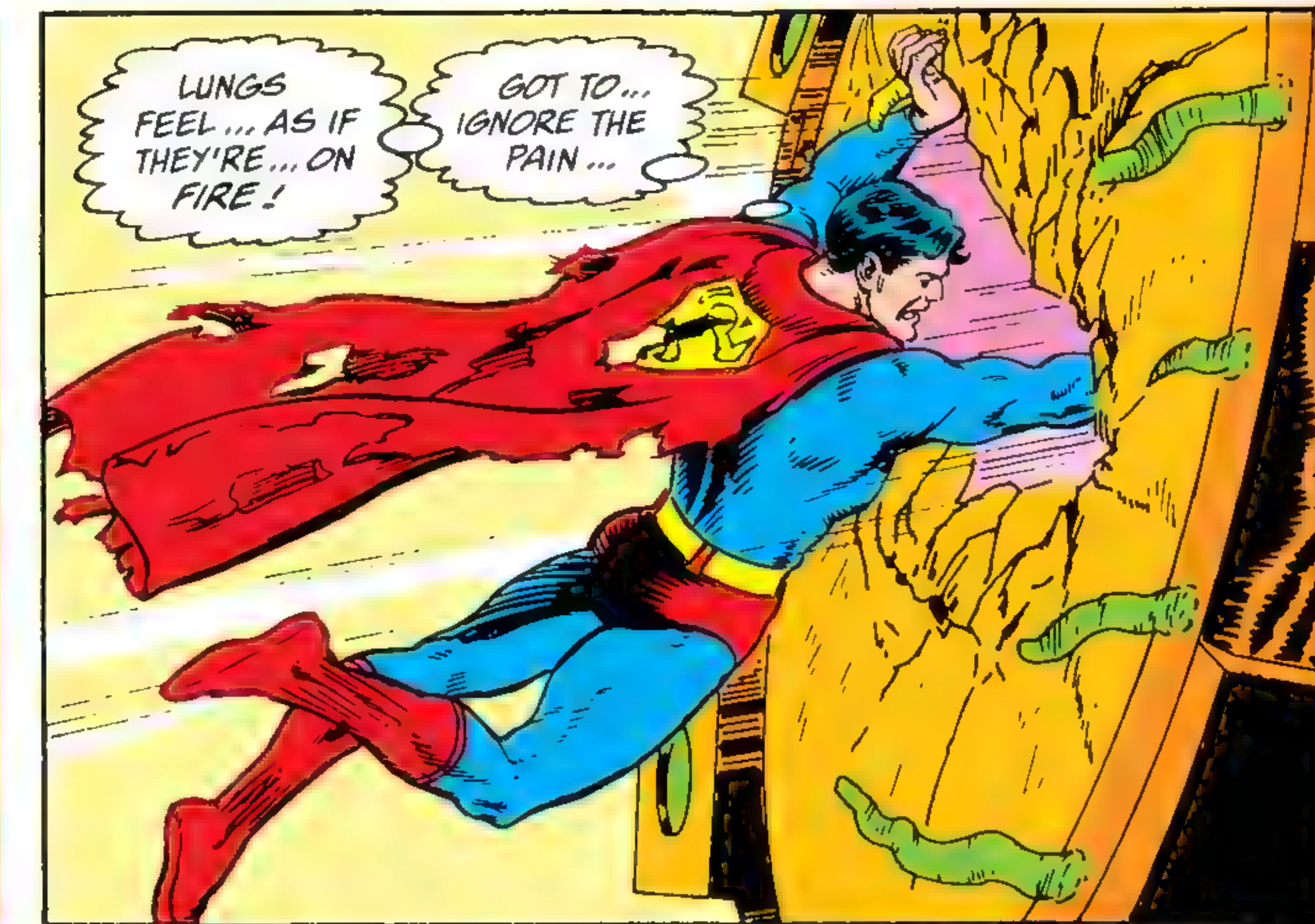
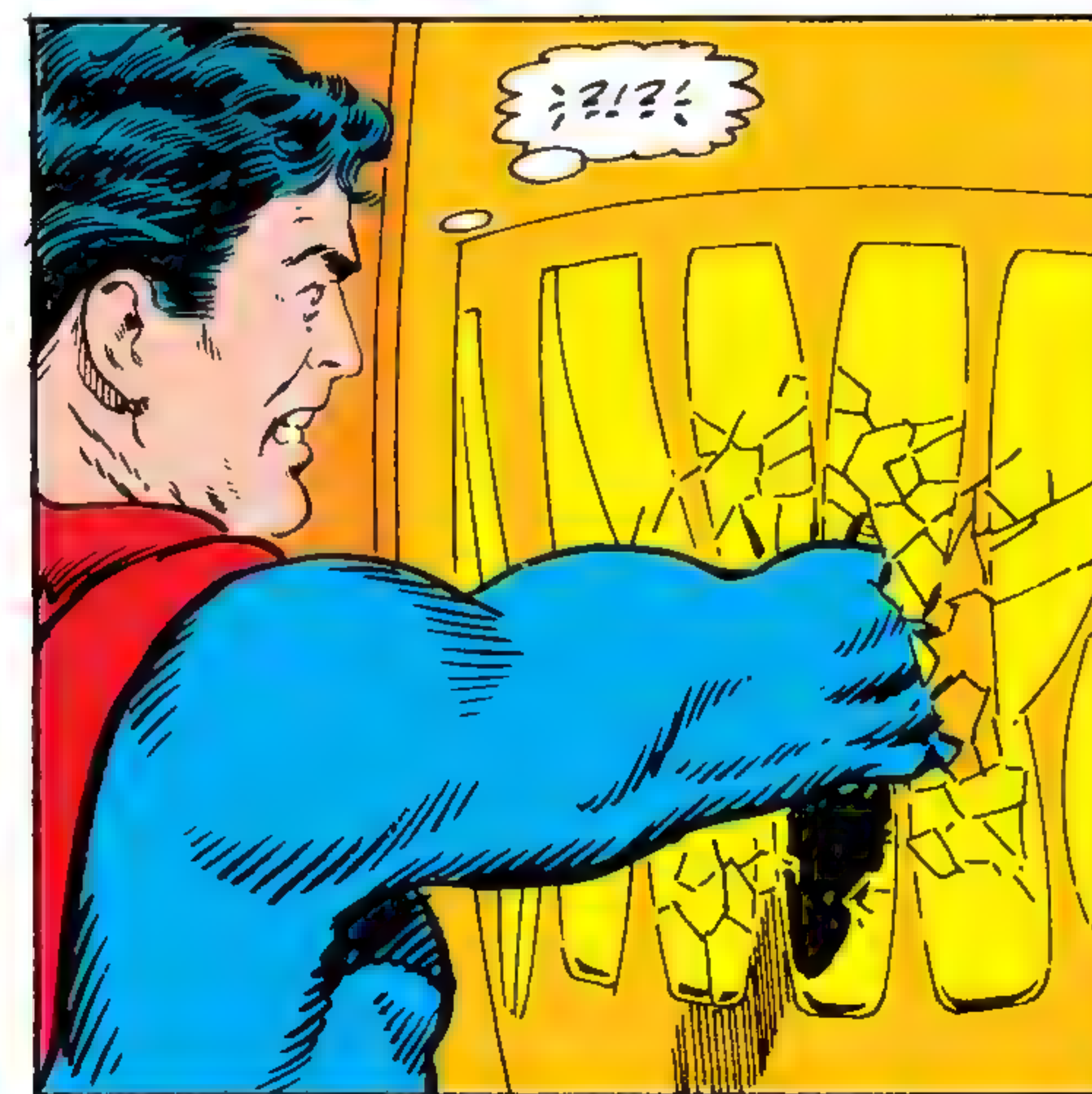
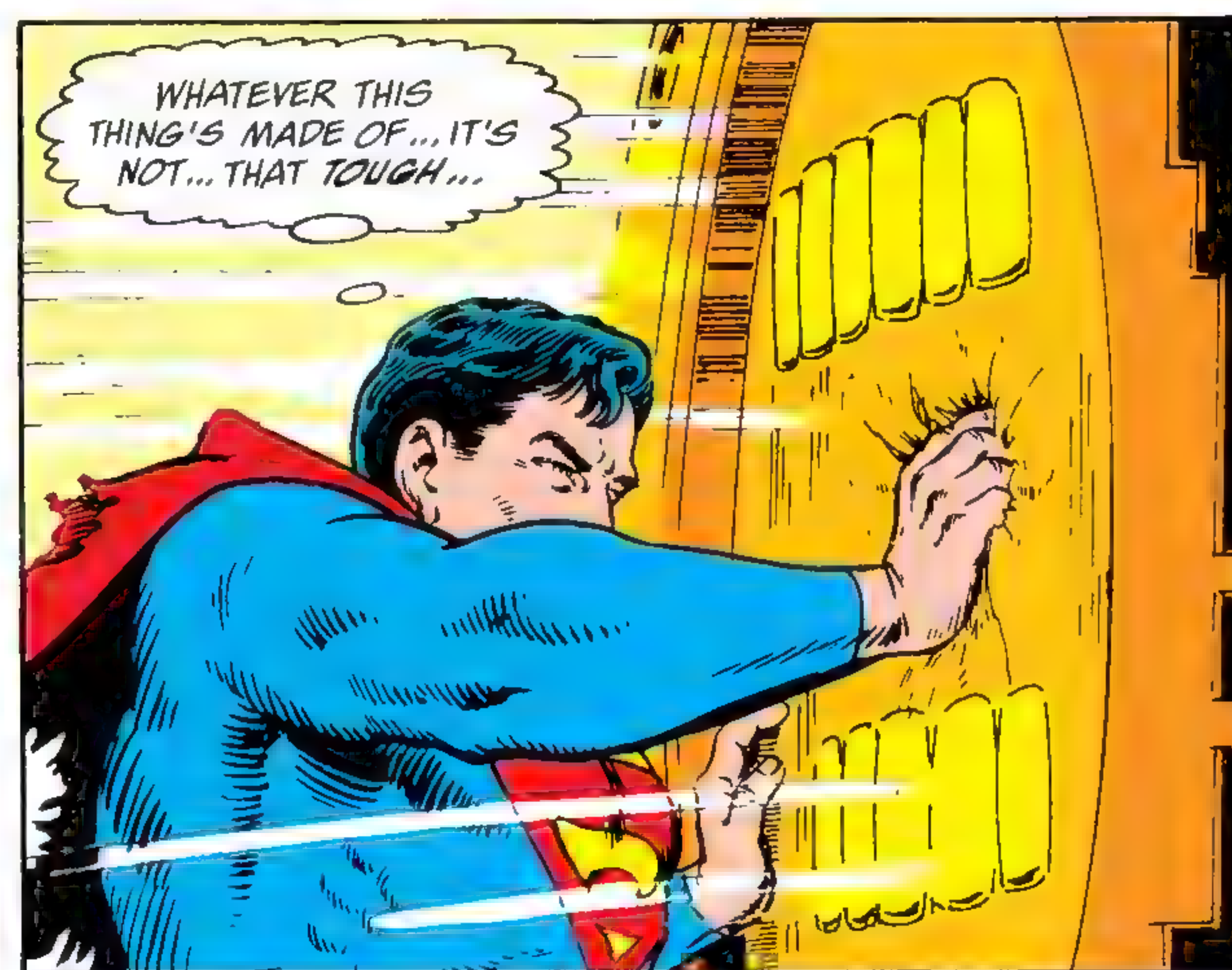
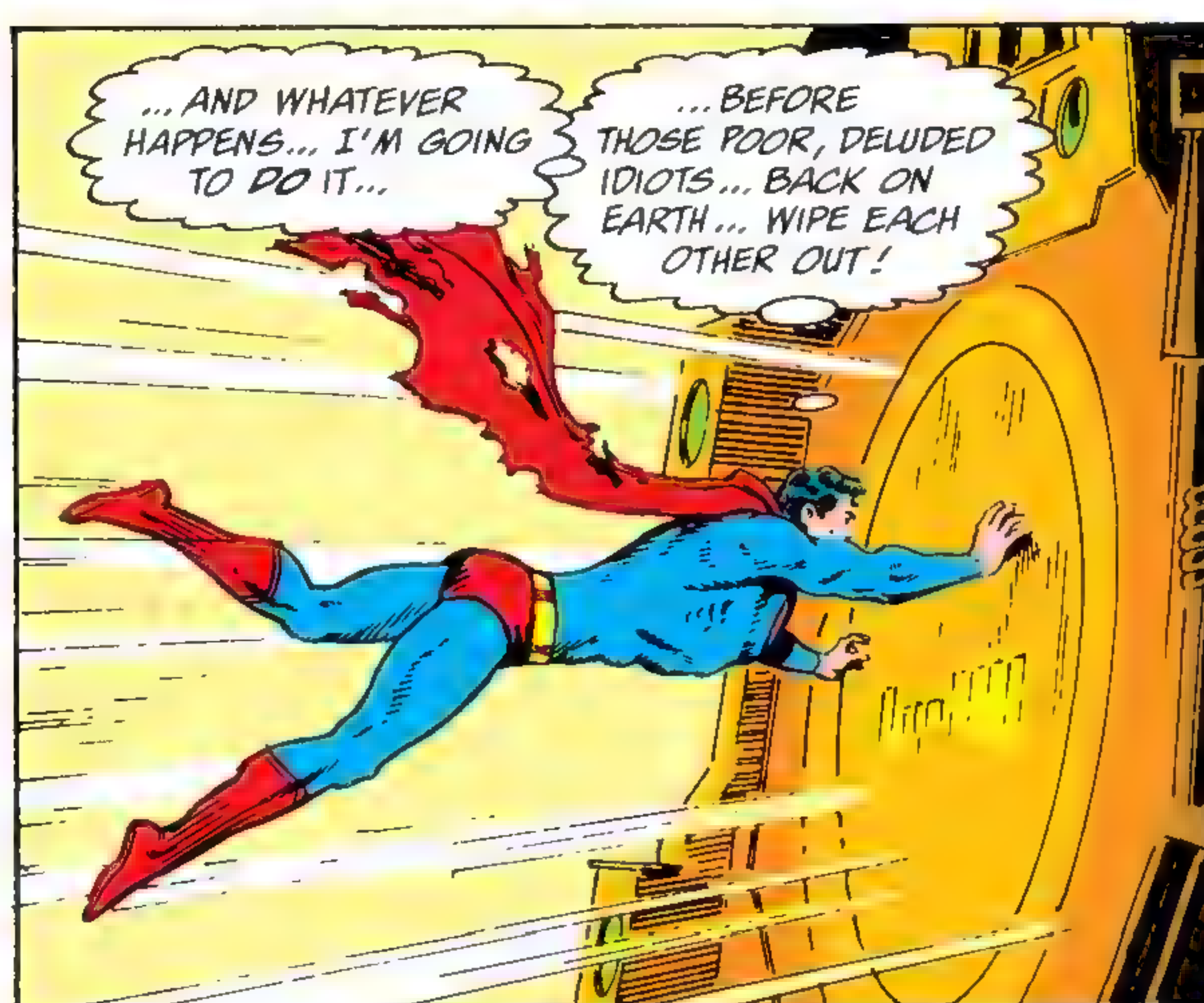
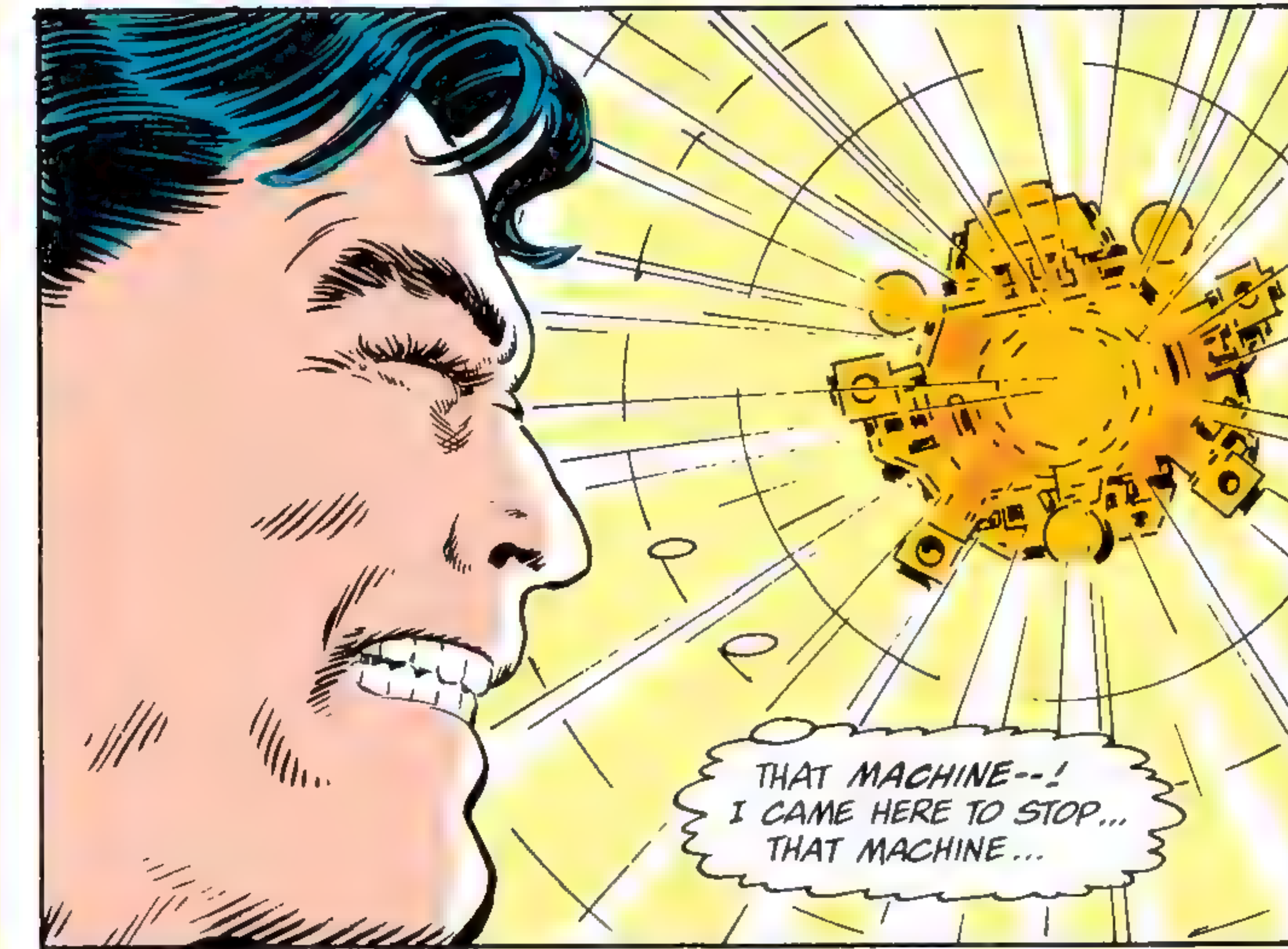
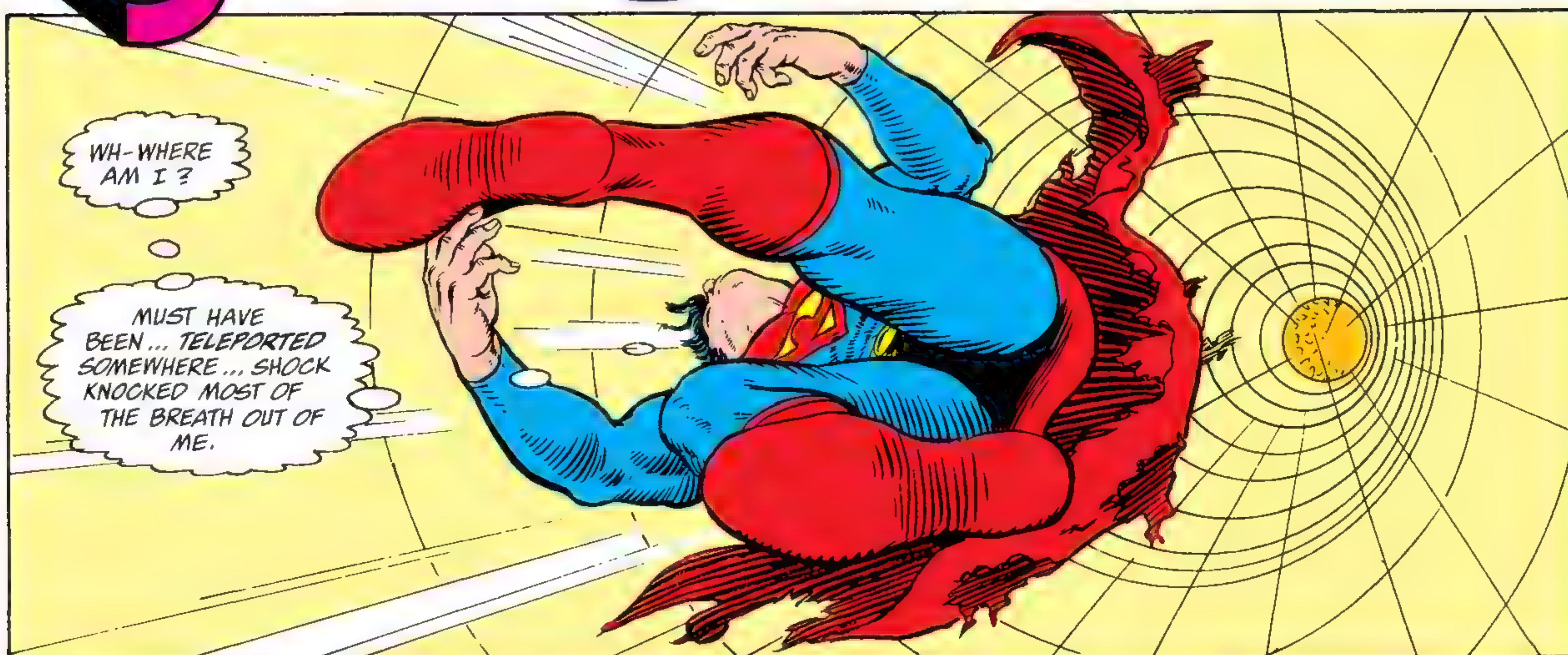


CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!

RUSHING TO SHUT DOWN A SPACE-
BORN ENERGY BEAM THAT
POWERS TWO WARRING GROUPS ON
EARTH, SUPERMAN IS SWEEPED
FROM THE FACE OF THE UNIVERSE
BY A MYSTERIOUS FORCE!

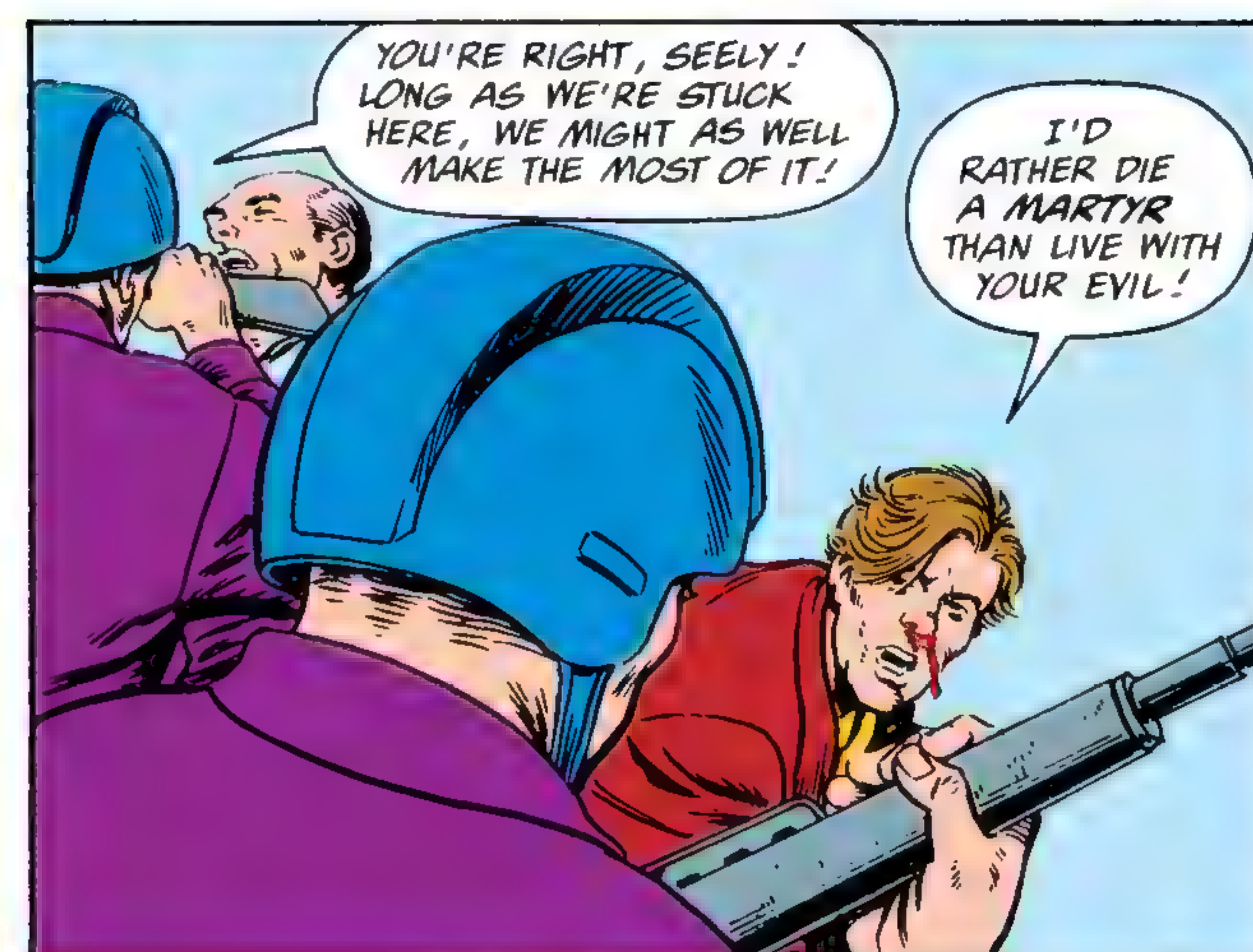
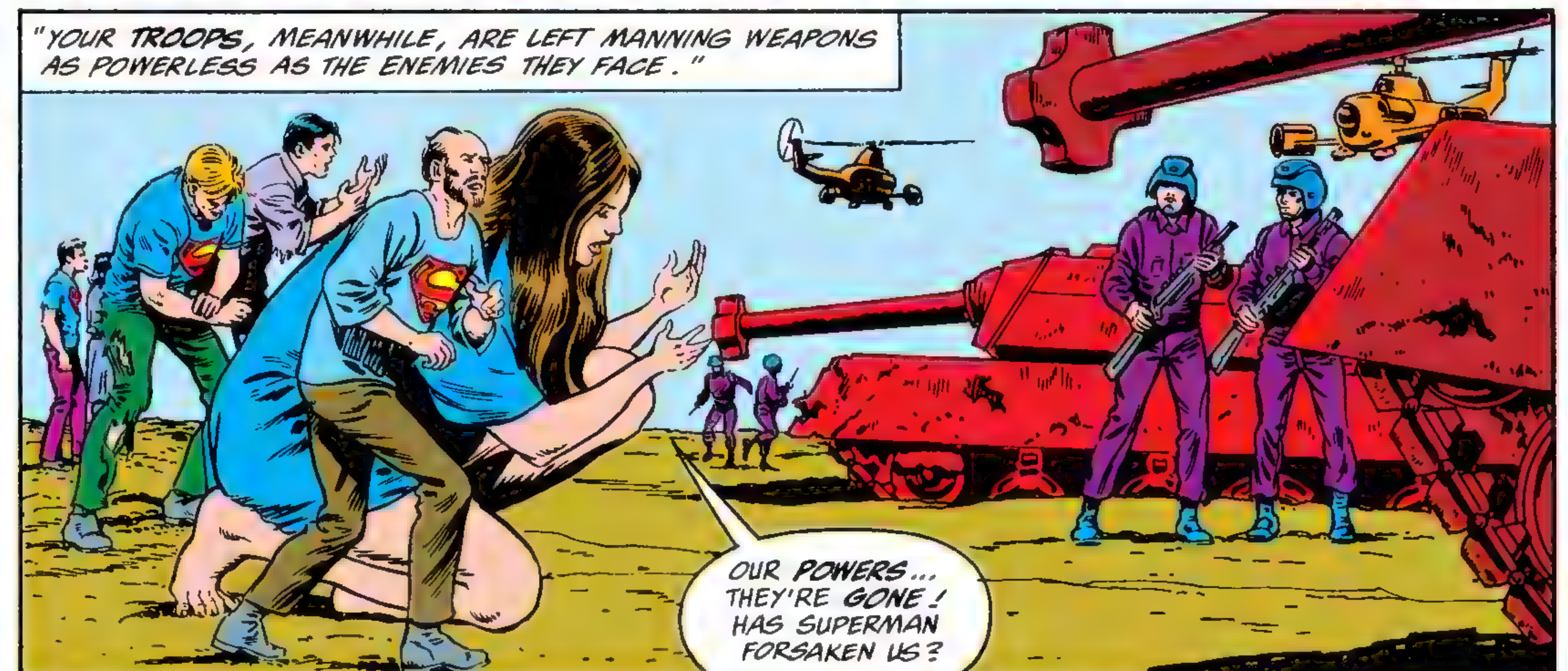
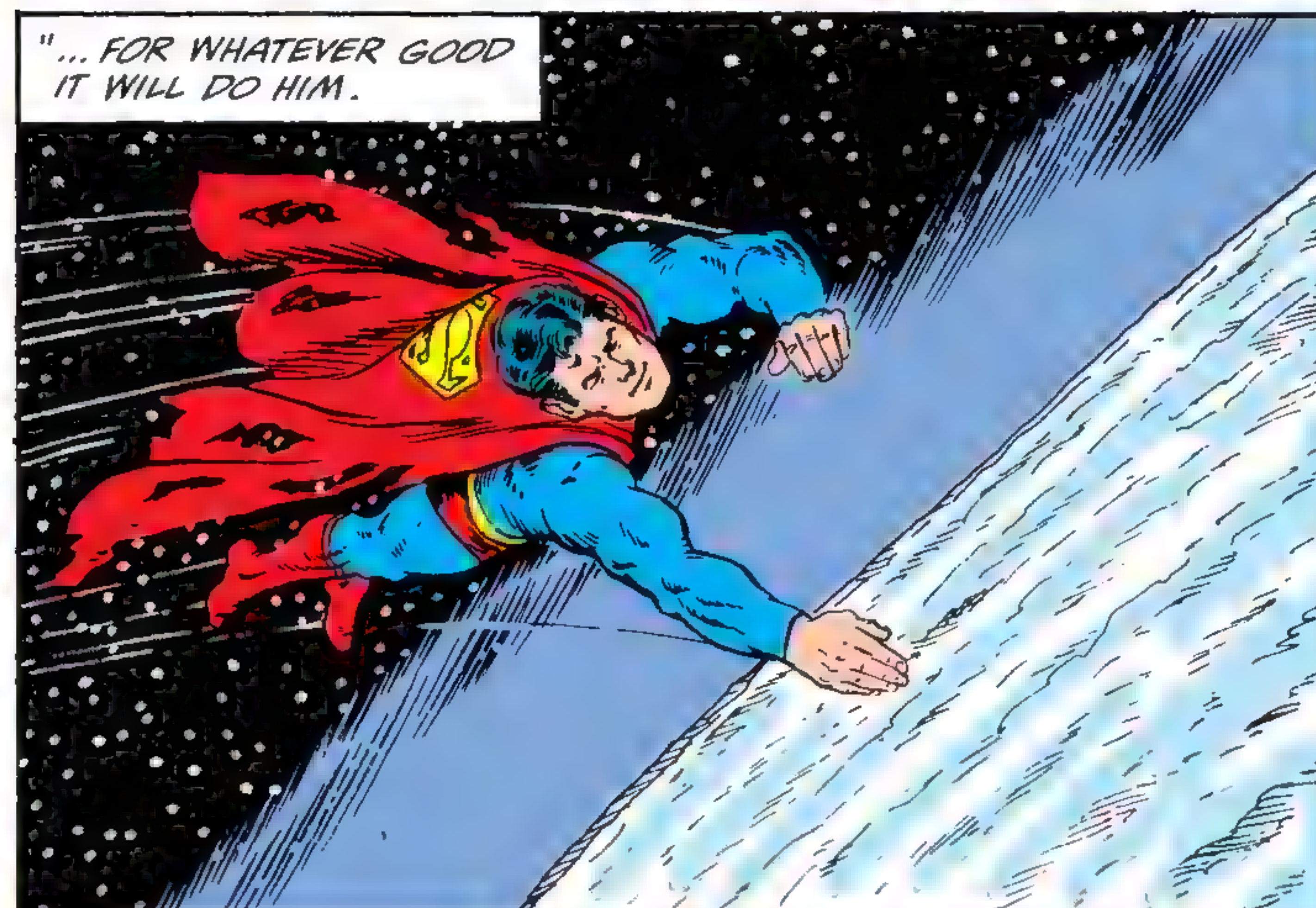
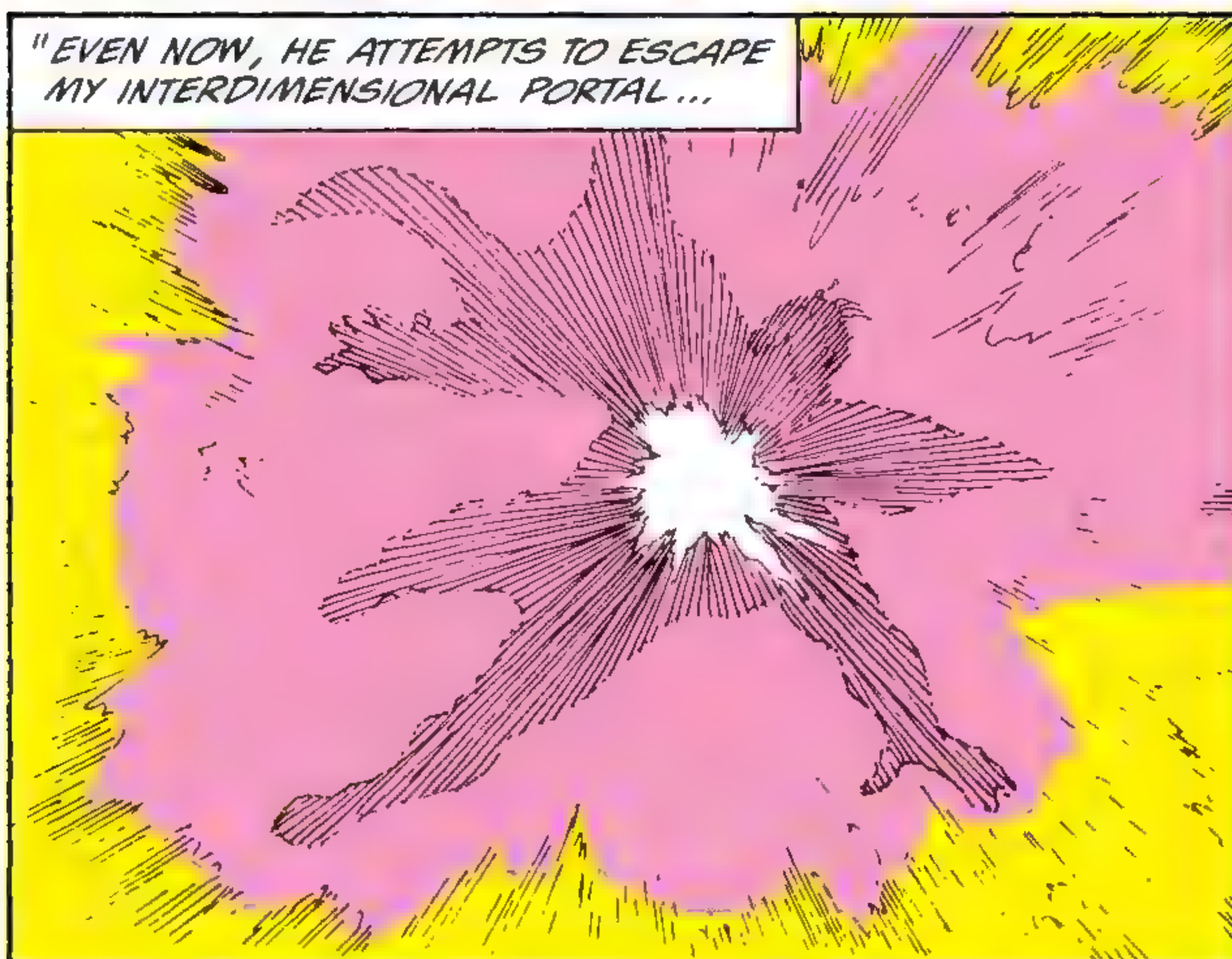
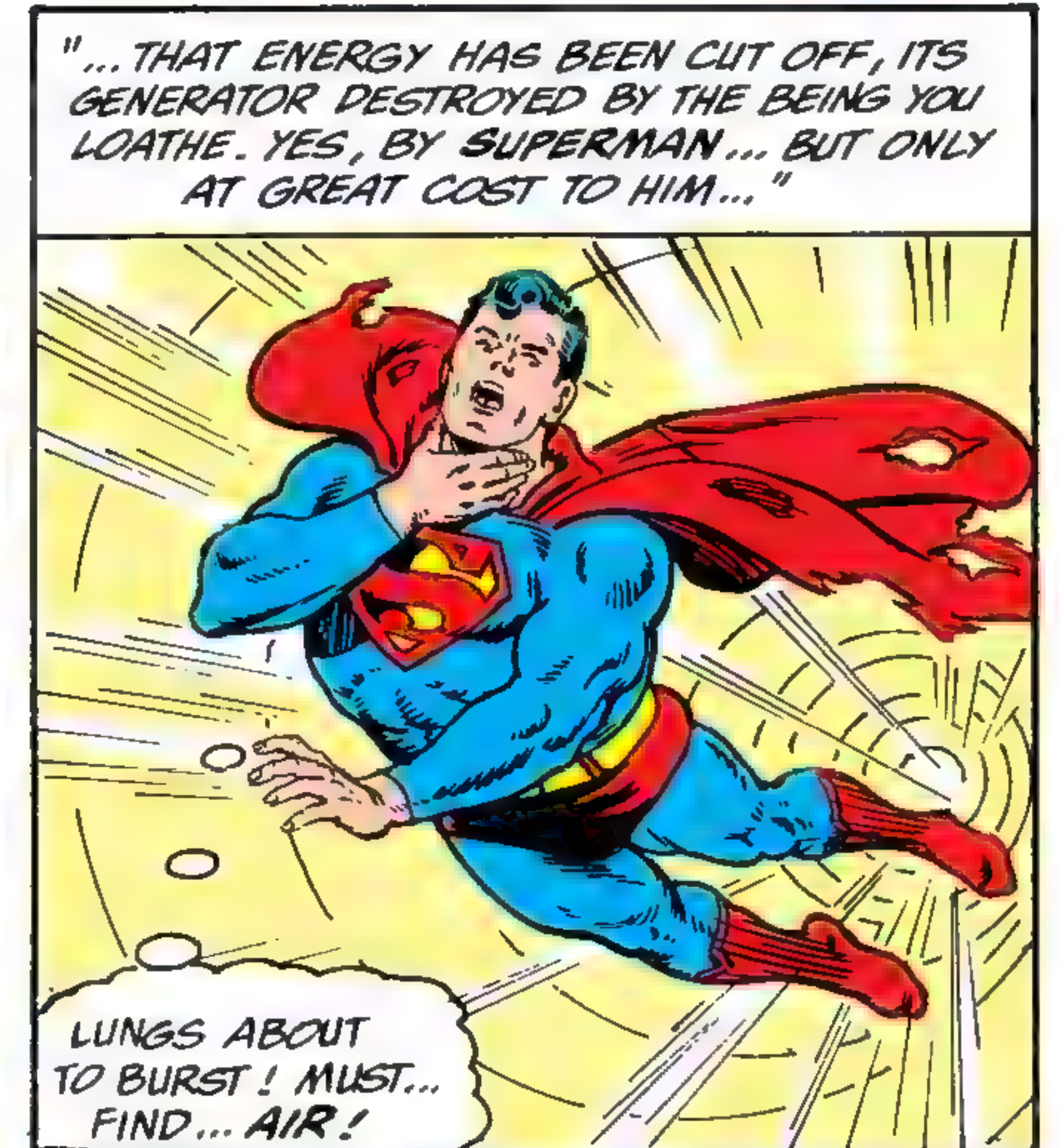
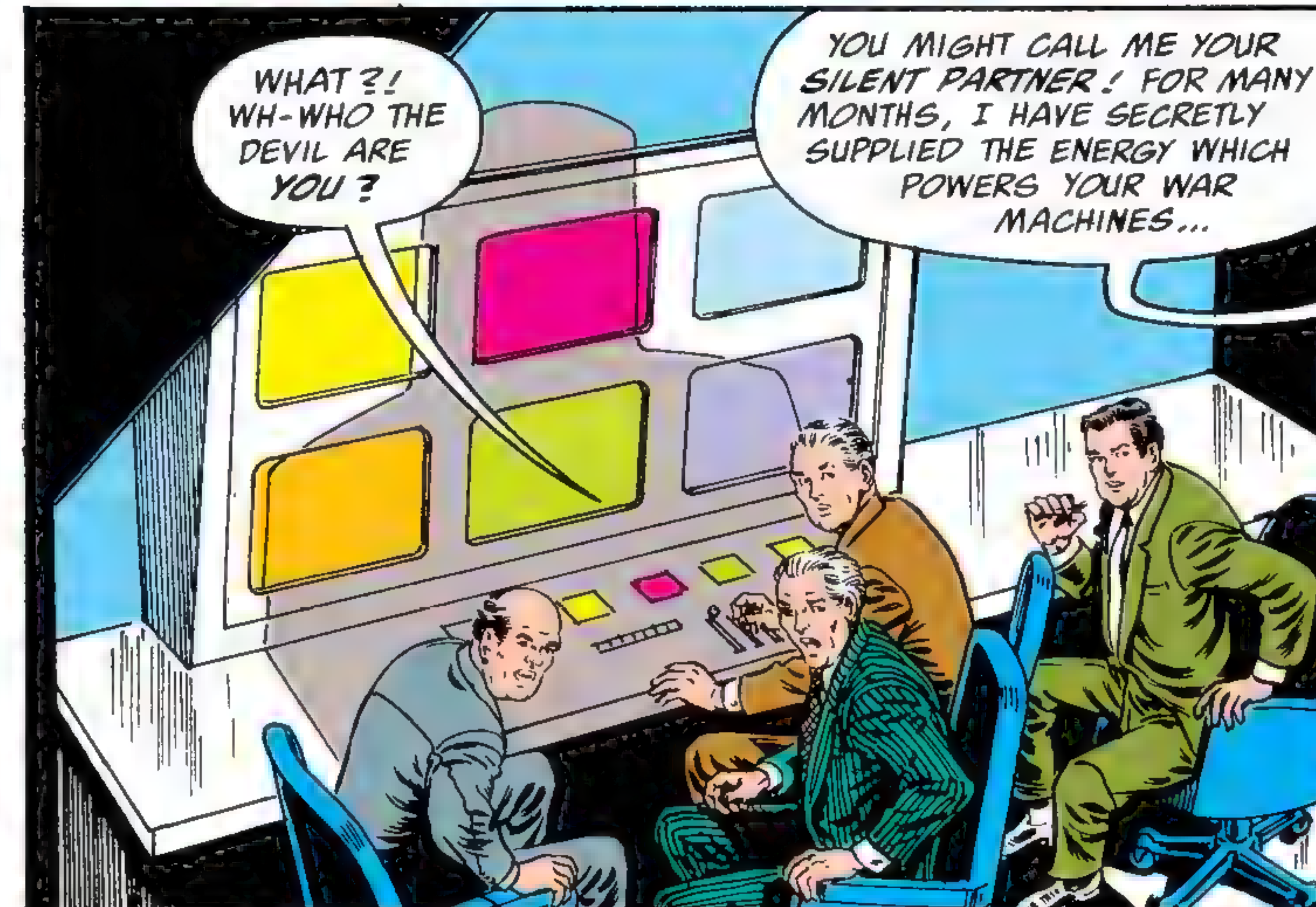
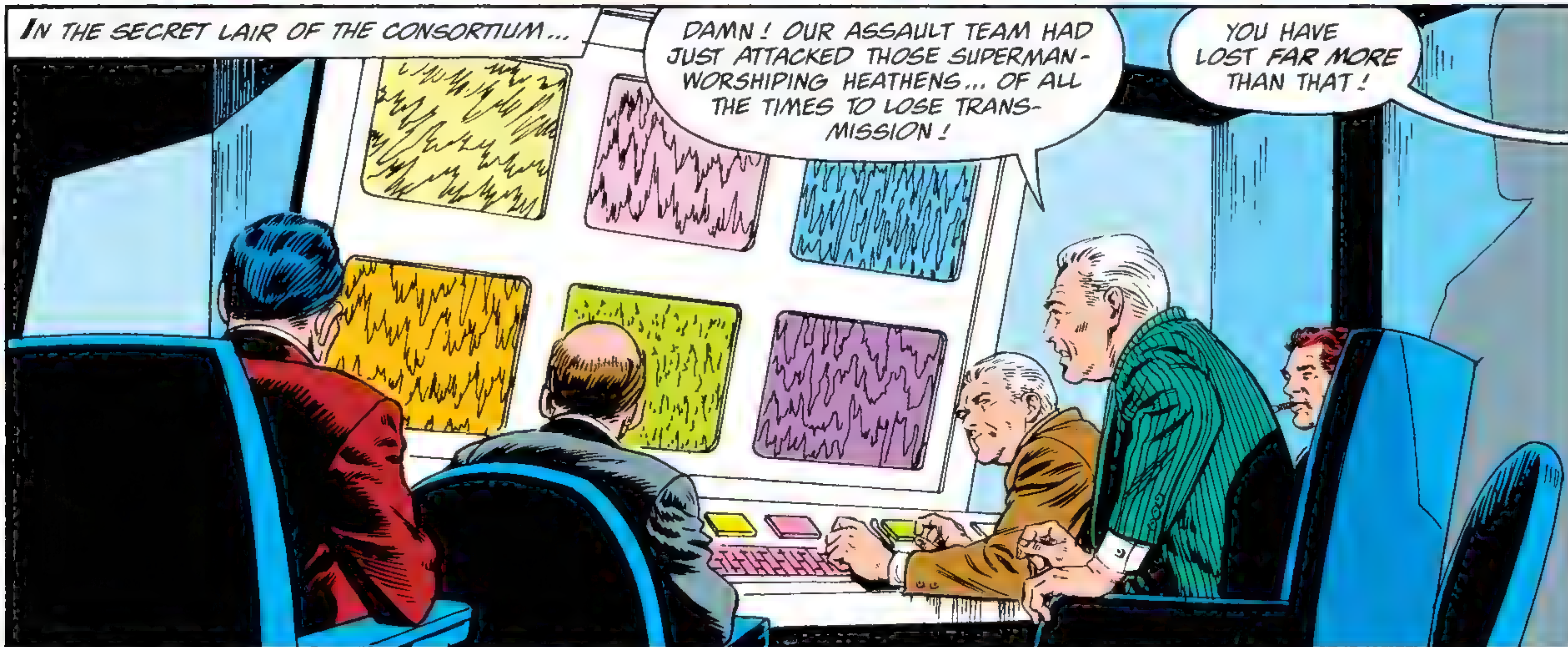
"BREATHLESS!"

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



CONTINUED NEXT WEEK?

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR

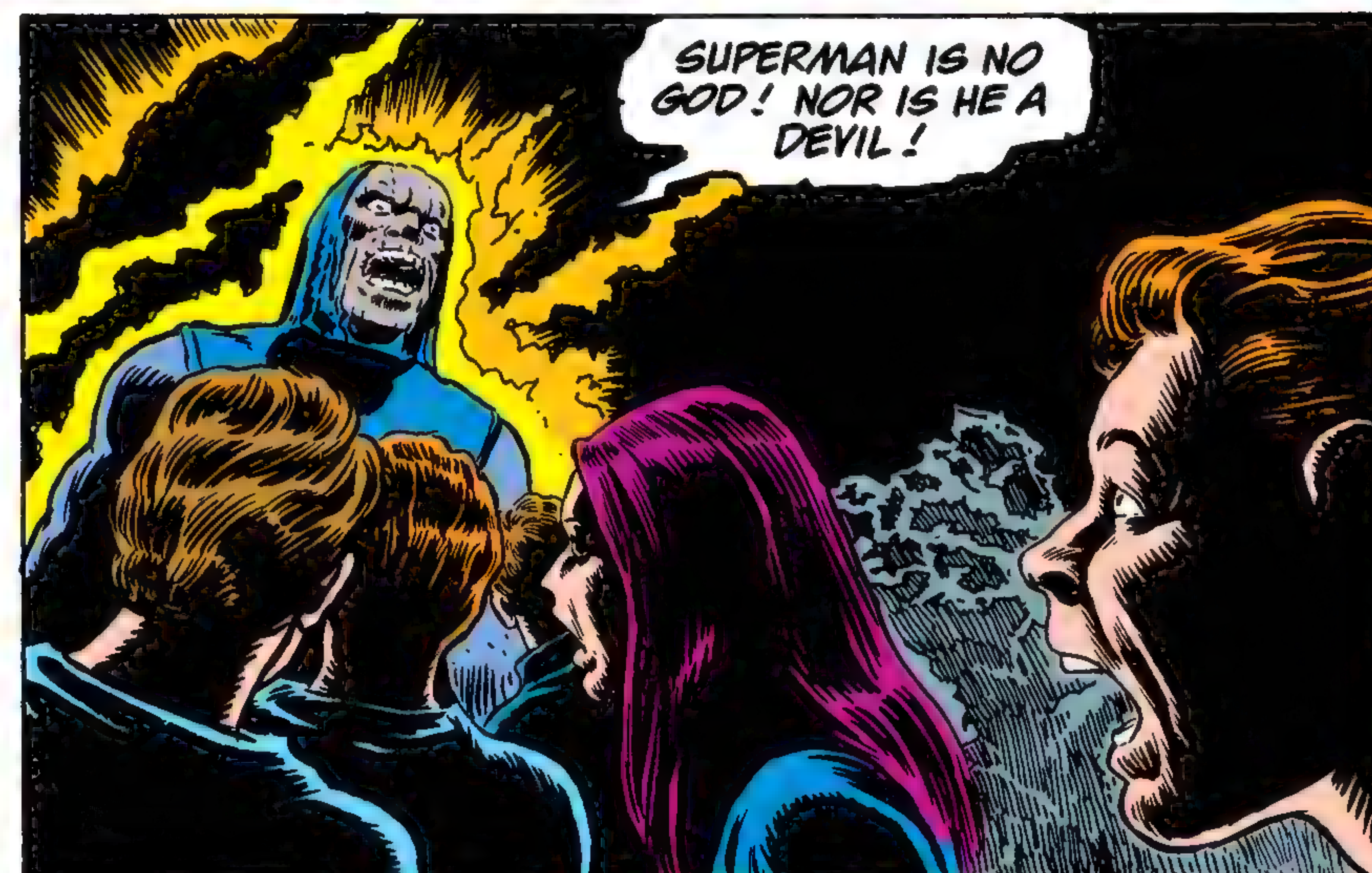
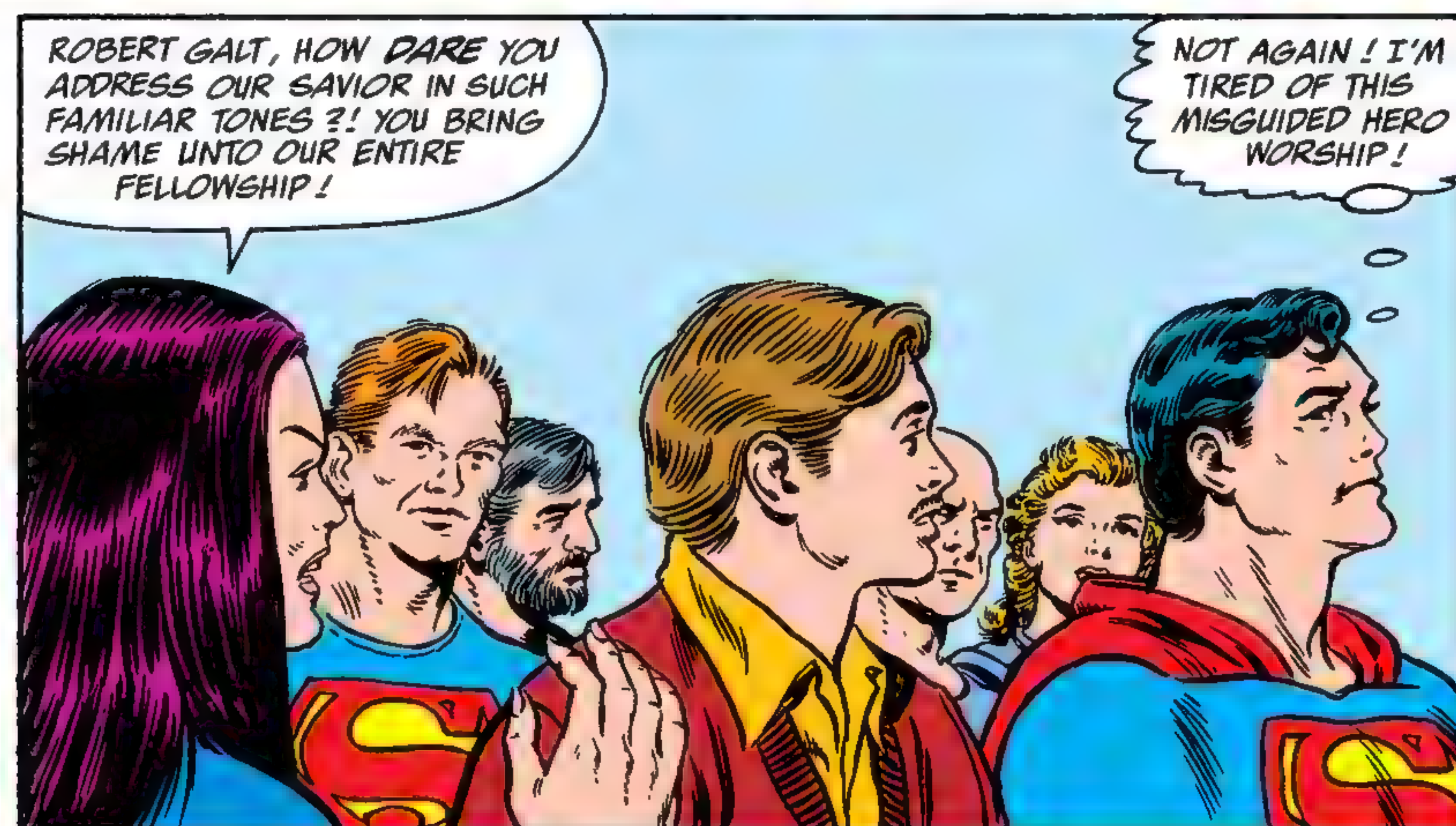
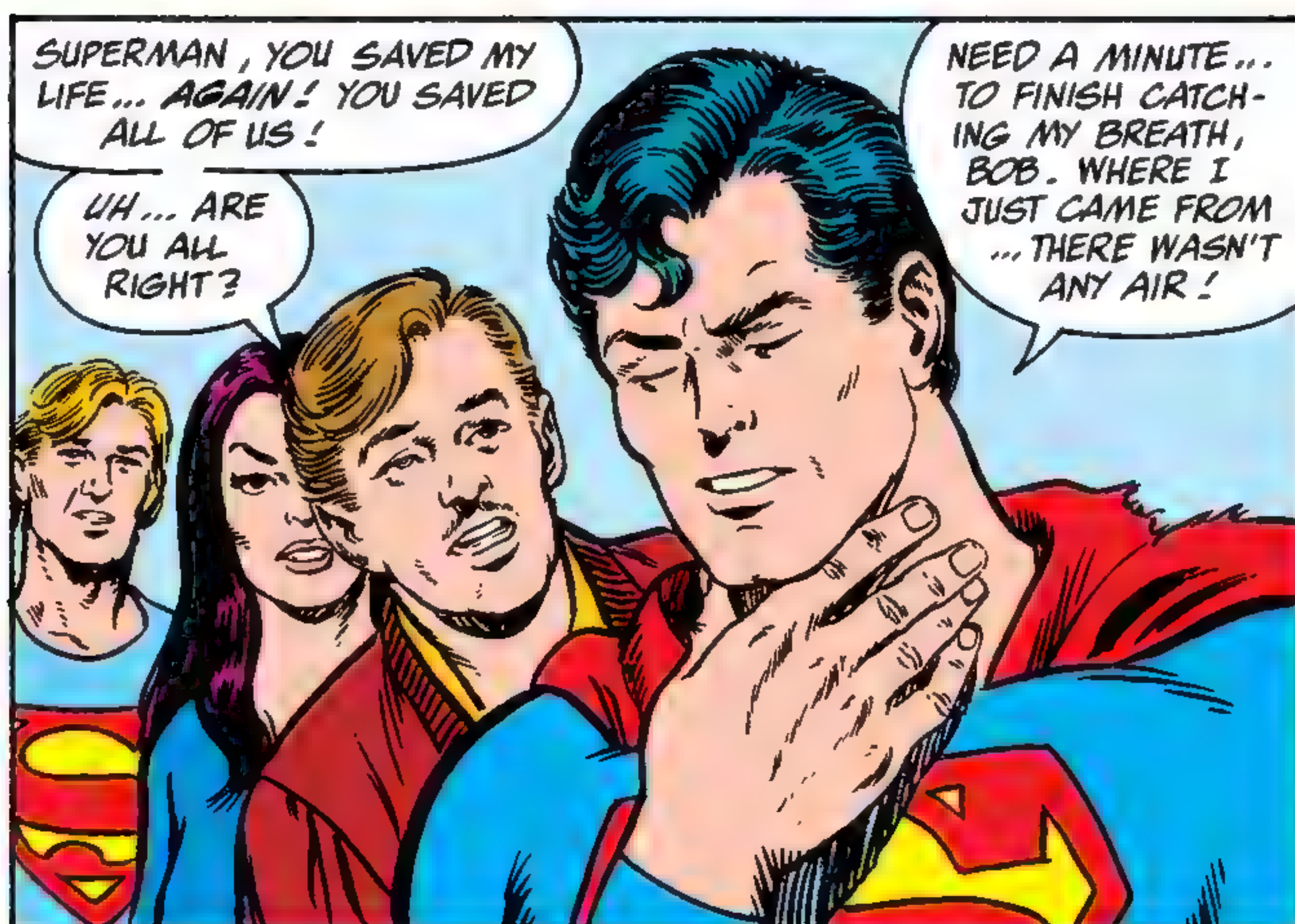
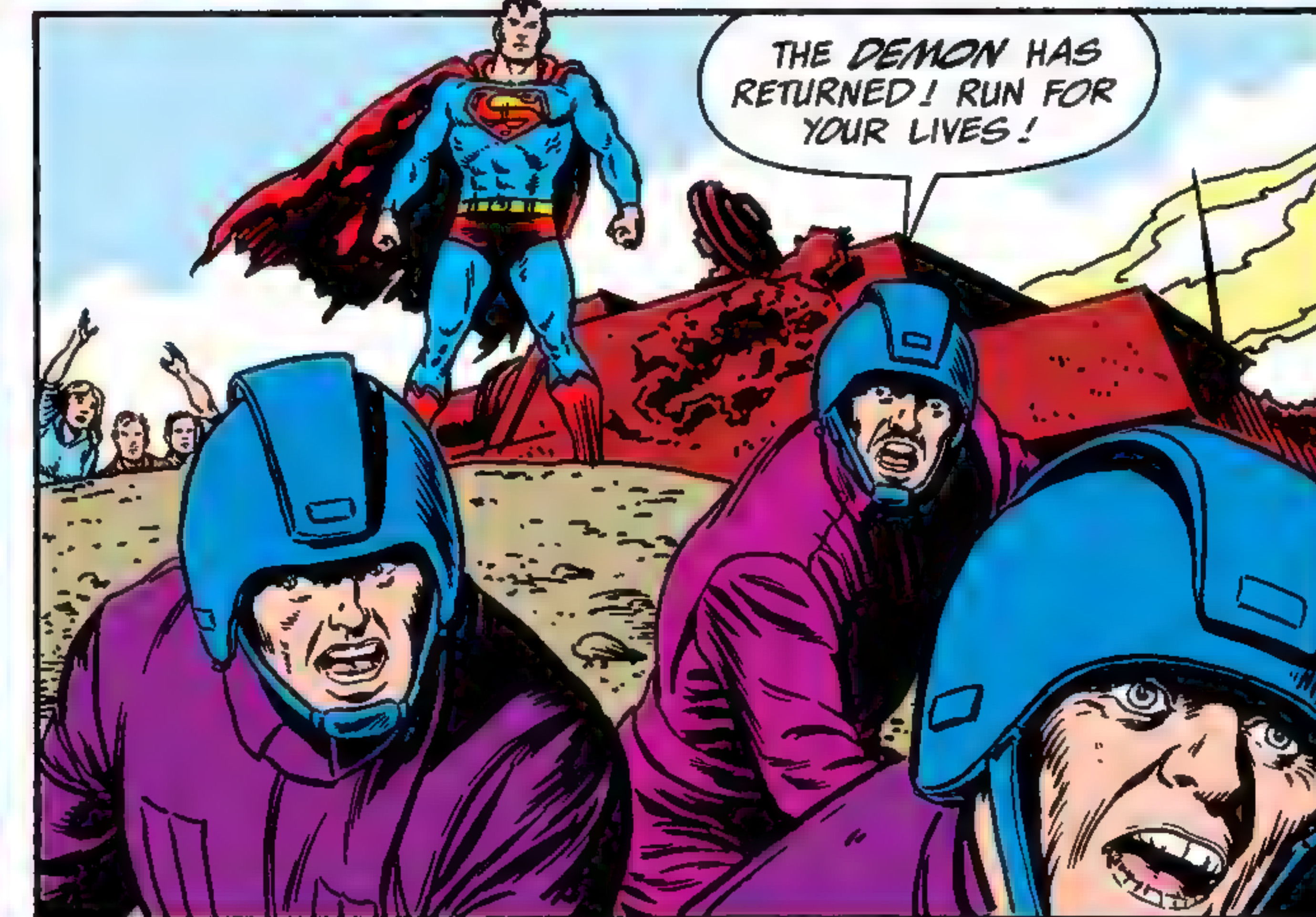
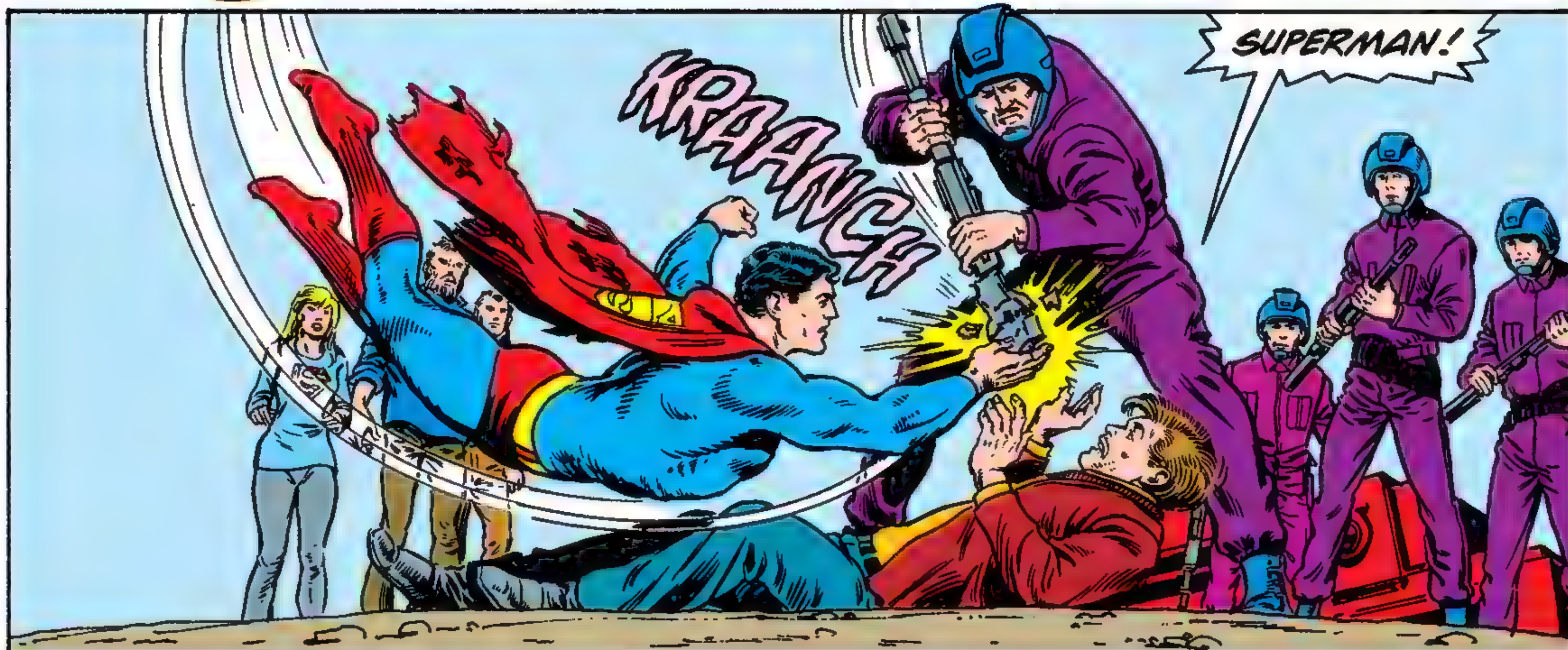


CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!

RENDERED POWERLESS BY SUPERMAN'S DESTRUCTION OF A MYSTERIOUS ENERGY GENERATOR, THE CONSORTIUM AND THE FELLOWSHIP CONTINUE THEIR BATTLE!

"THE FACE AND THE VOICE!"

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



NEXT WEEK: THE POWER OF DARKSEID!

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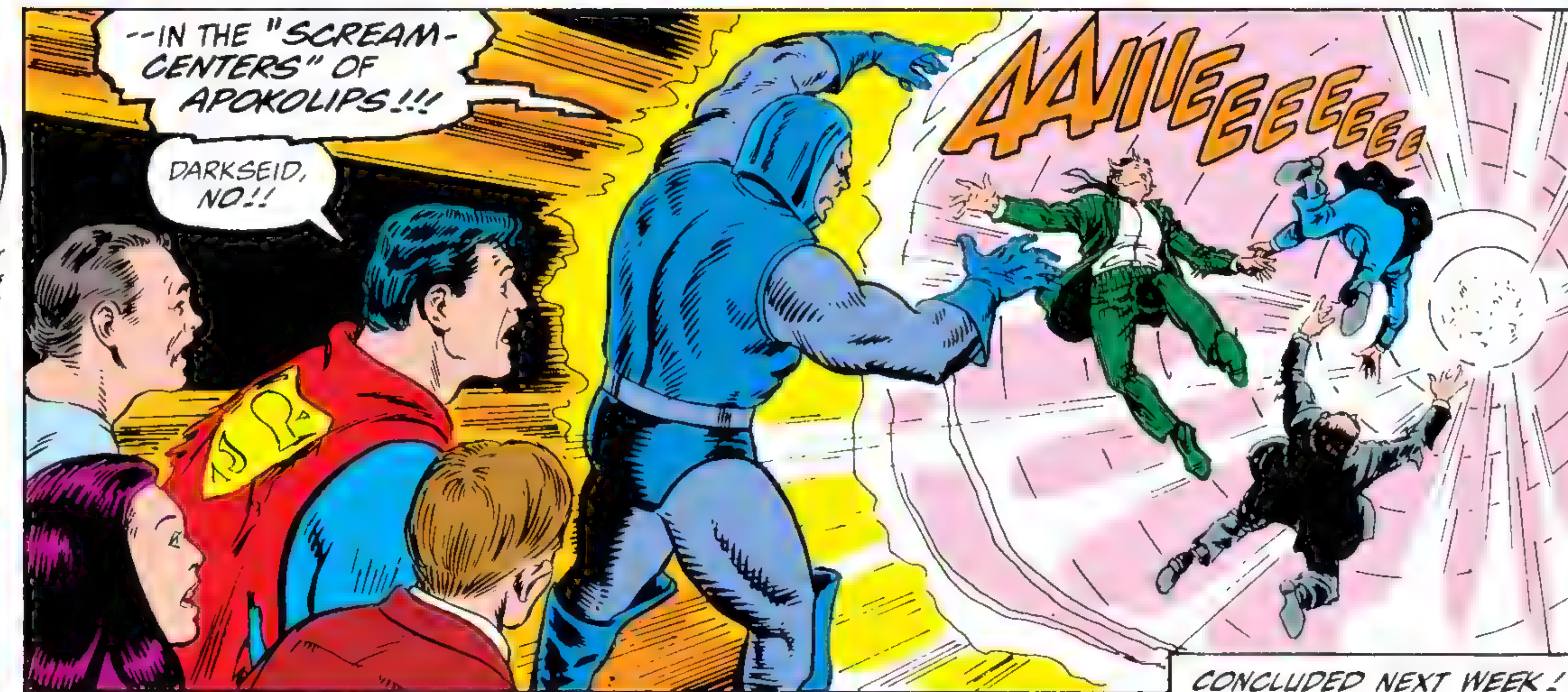
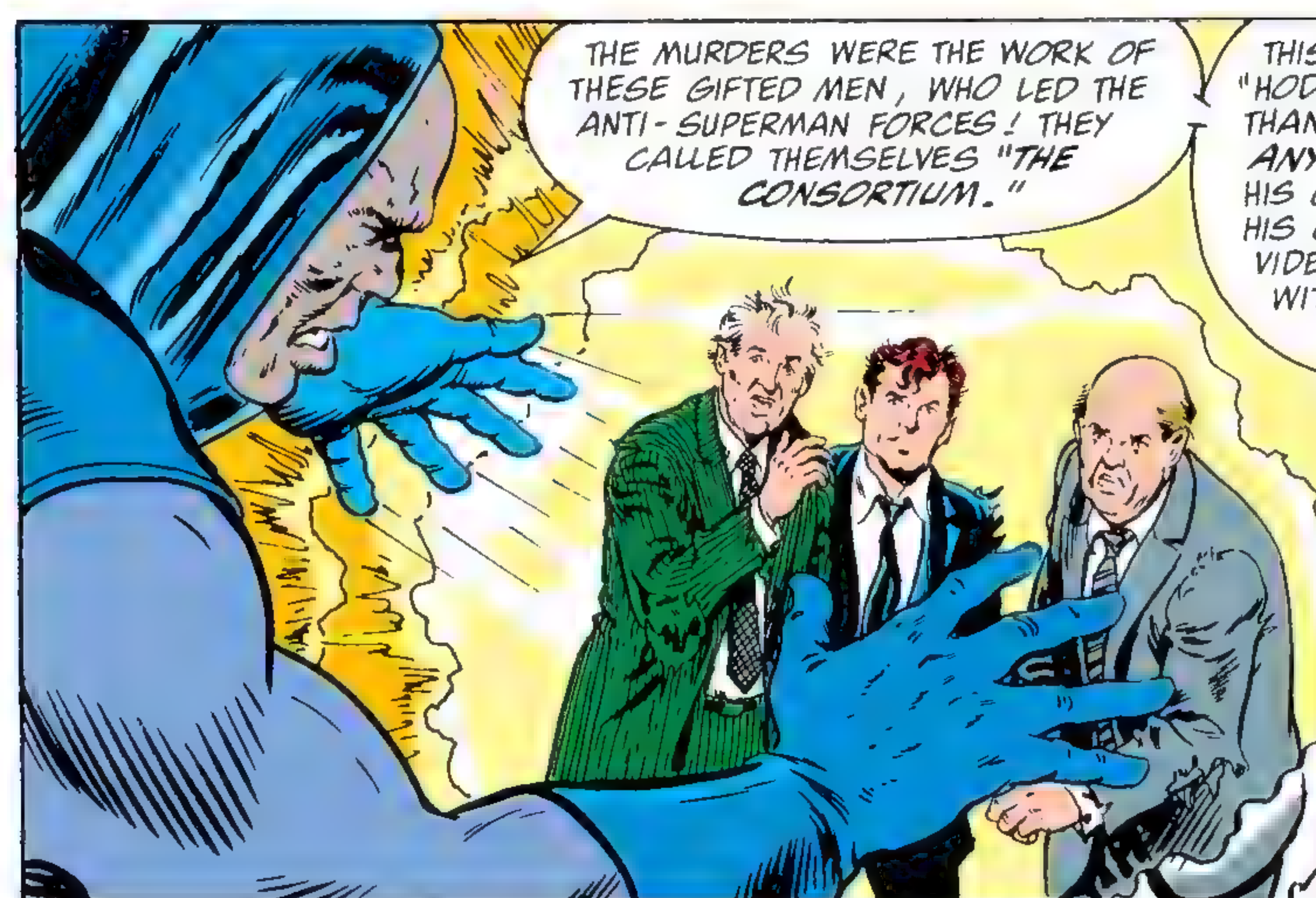
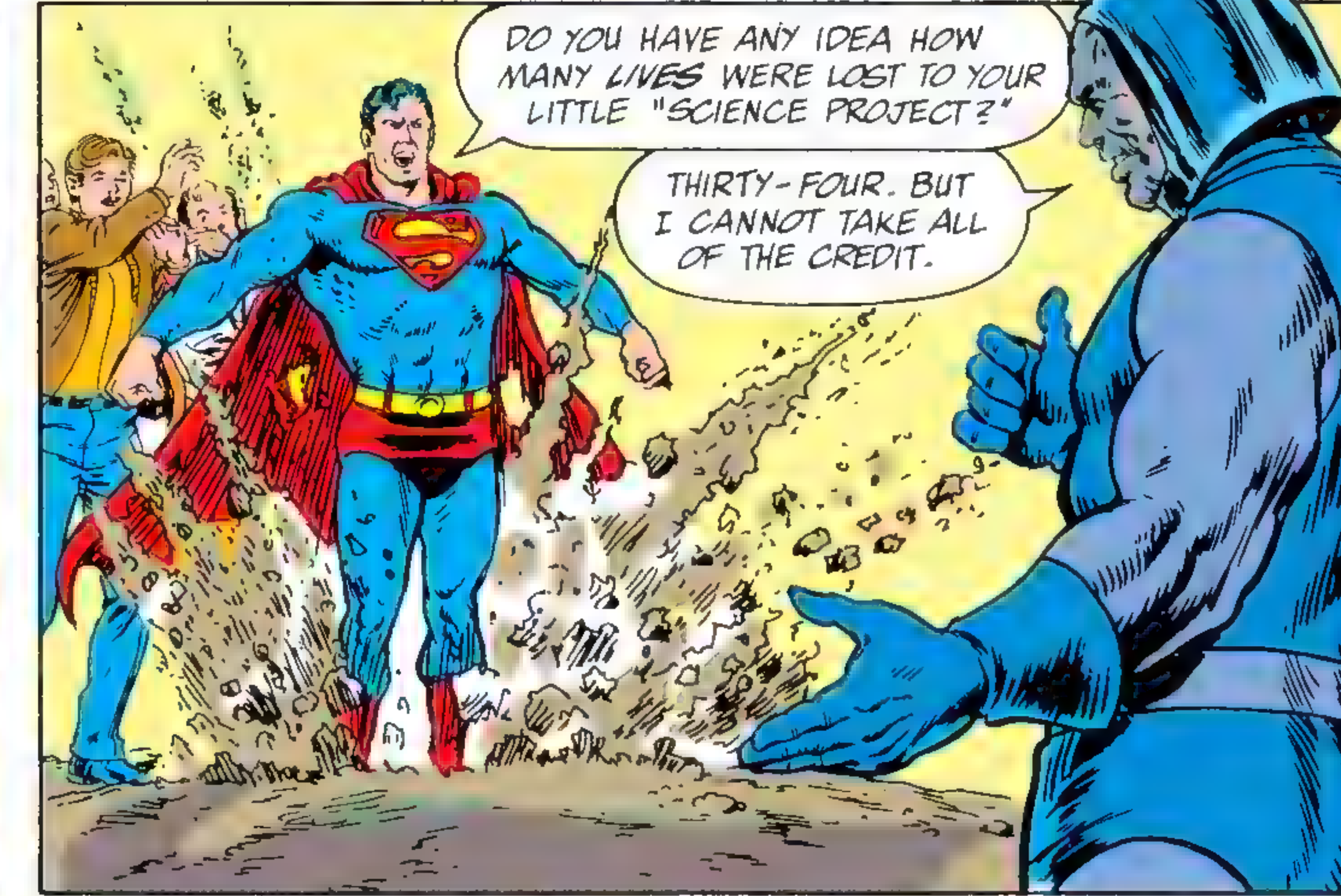
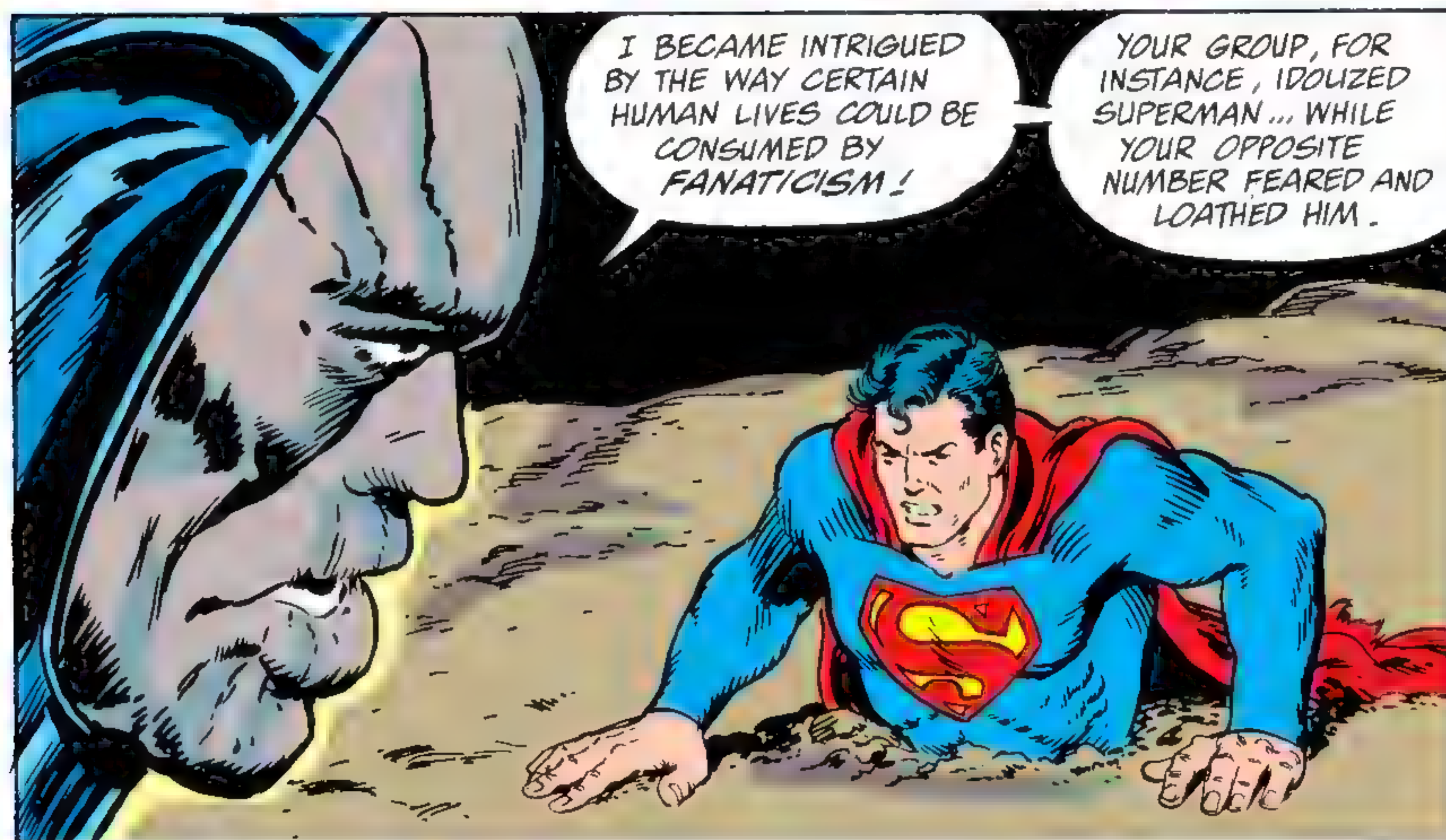
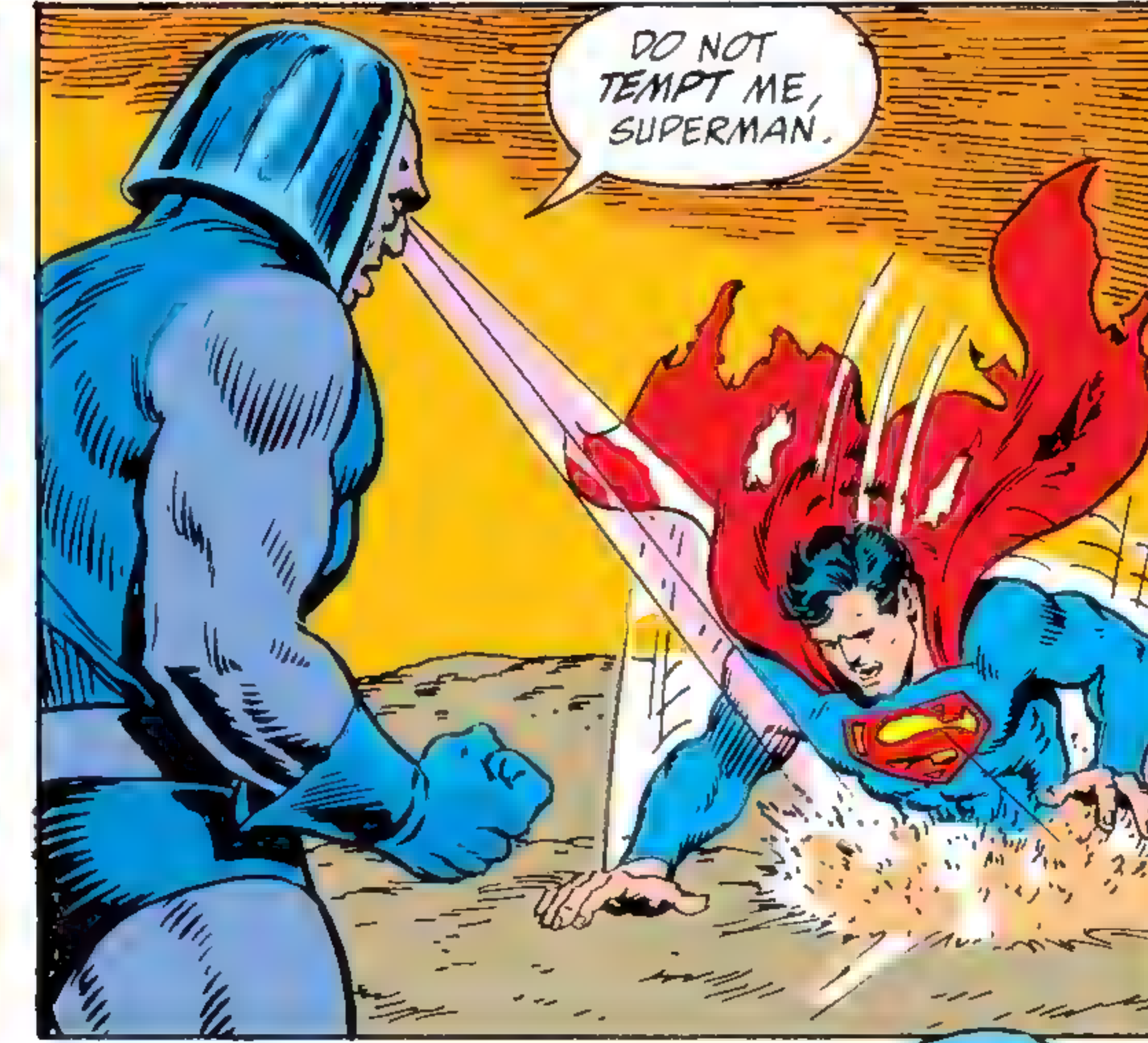
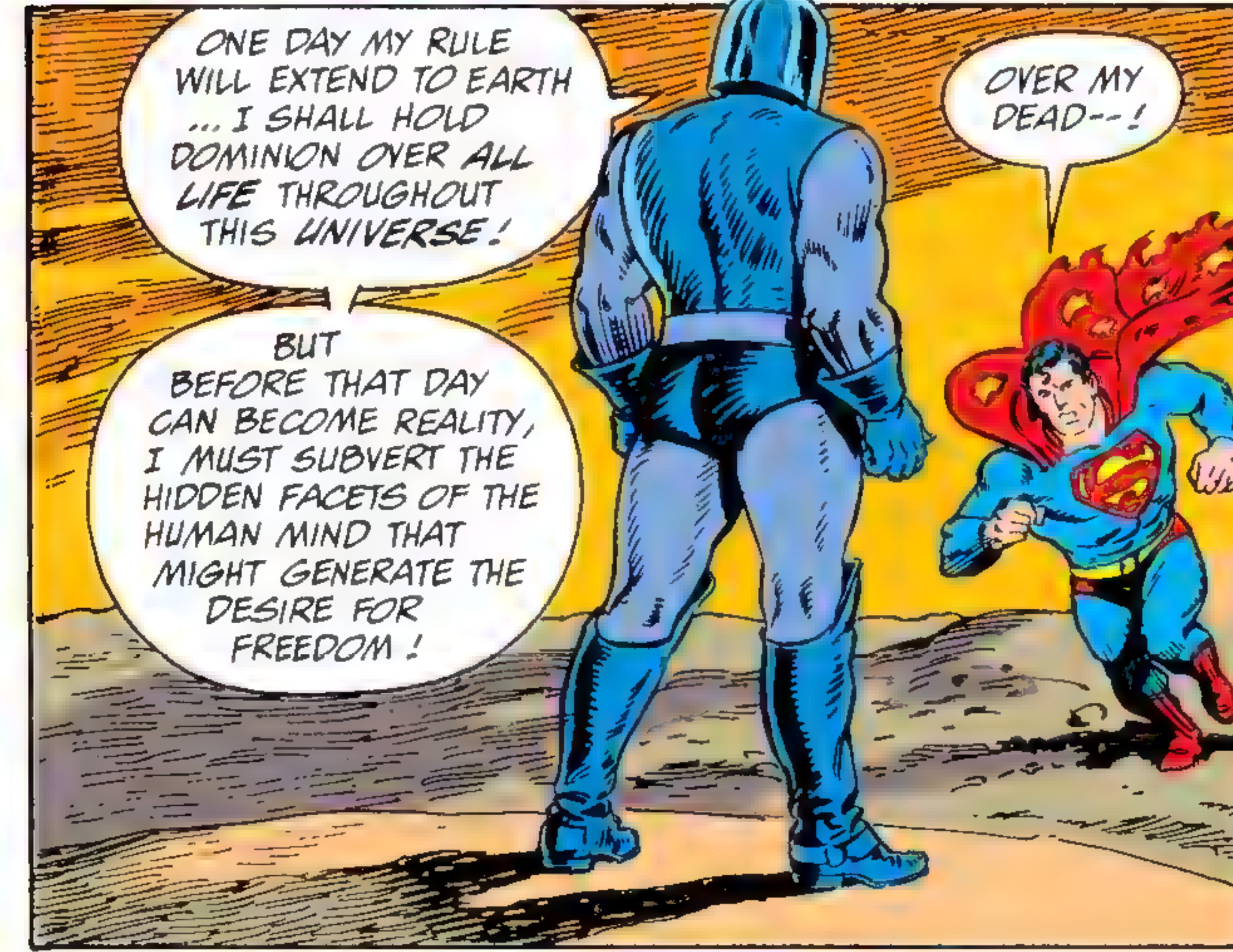
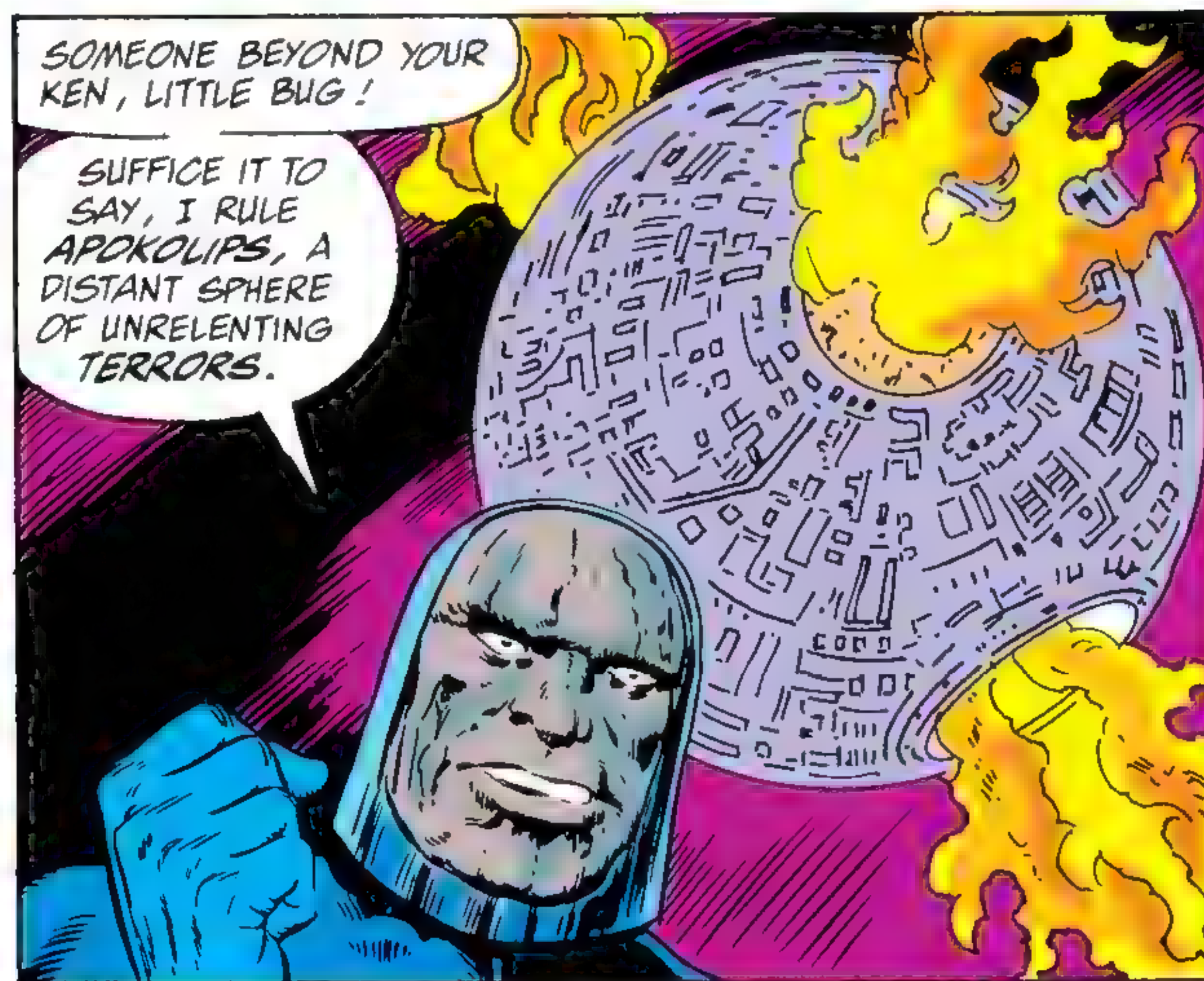
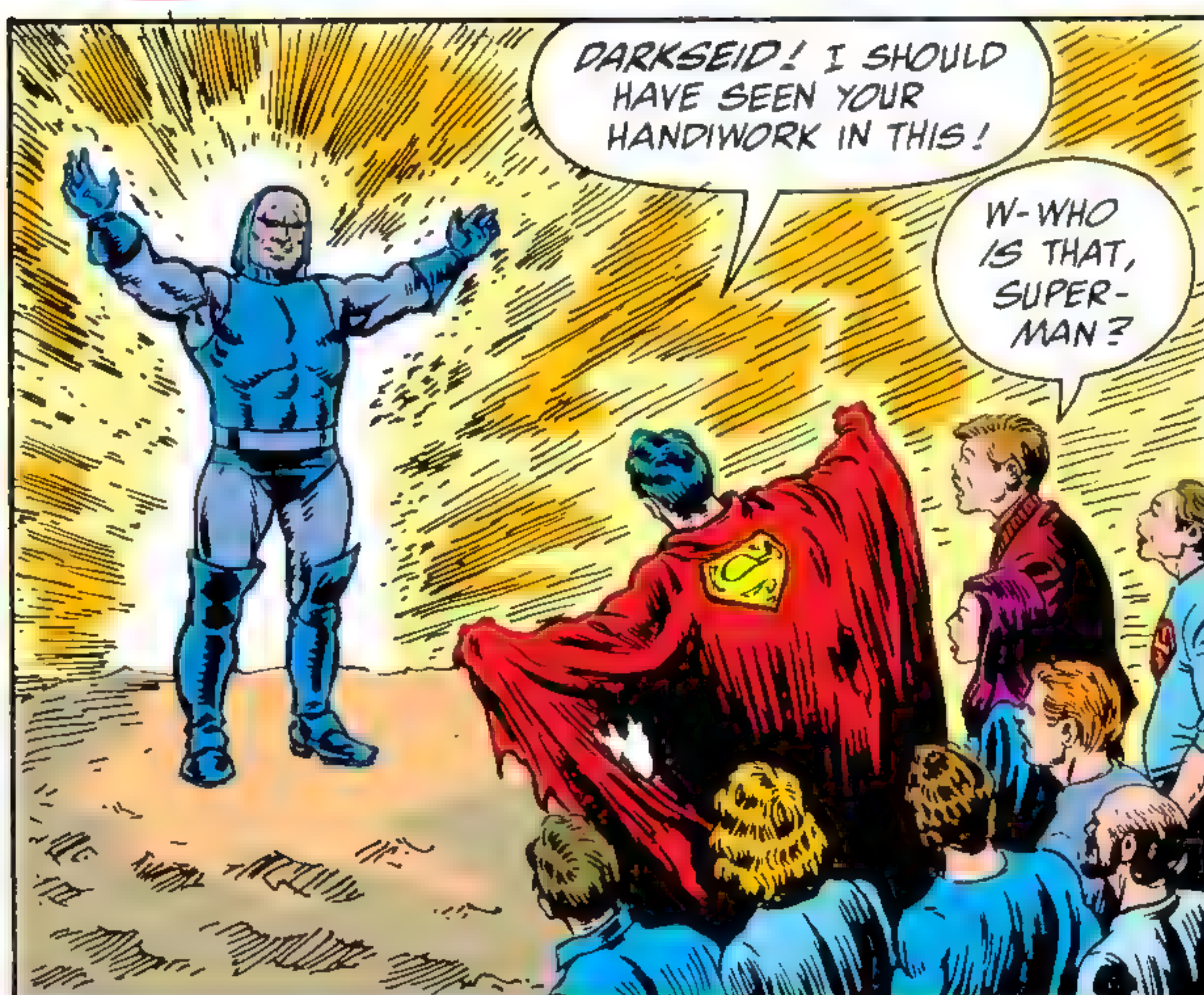
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WITH THE HOLY WAR AT AN END, ITS SECRET
MASTERMIND STANDS REVEALED...

THE POWER OF

DARKSEID!

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR

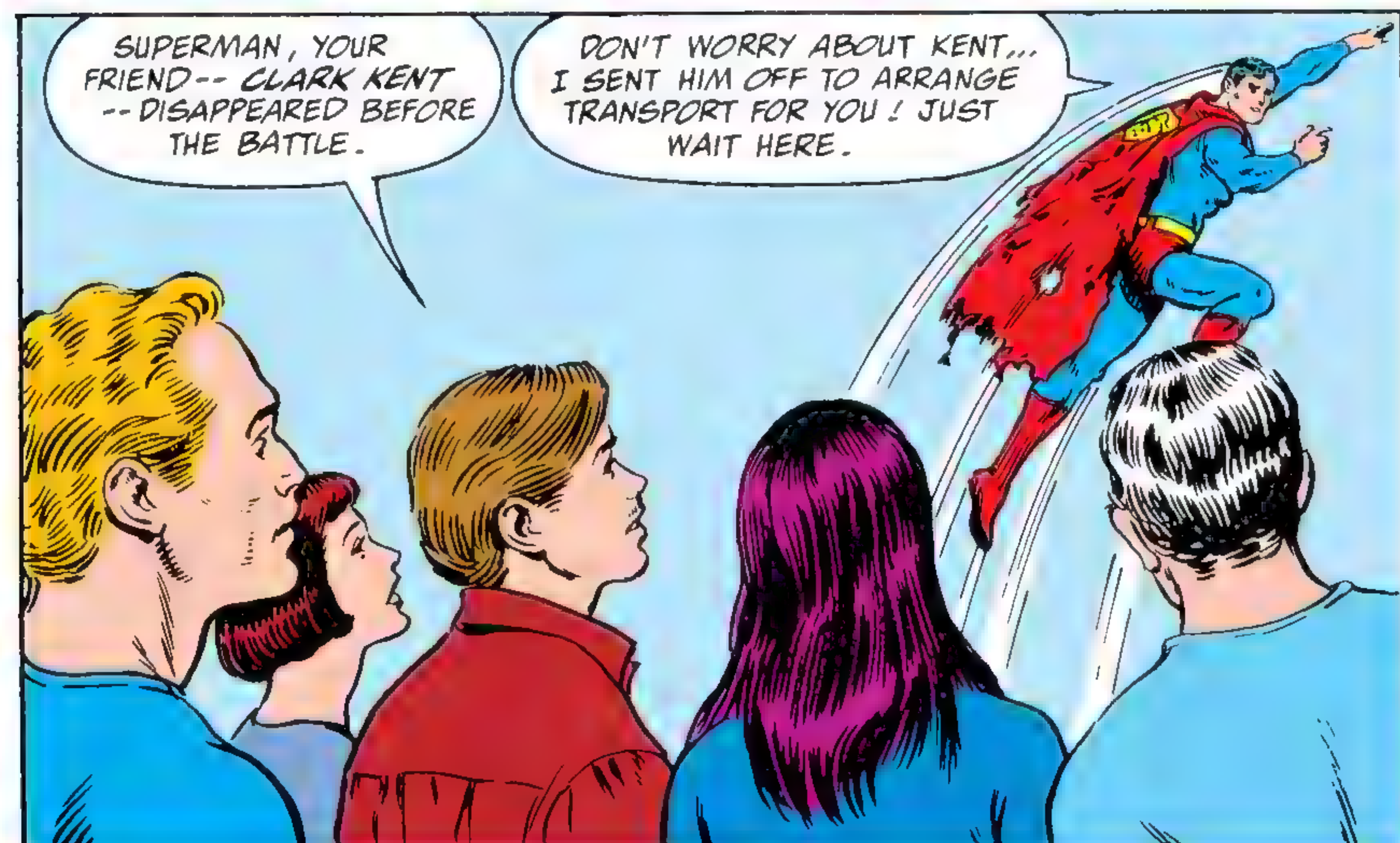
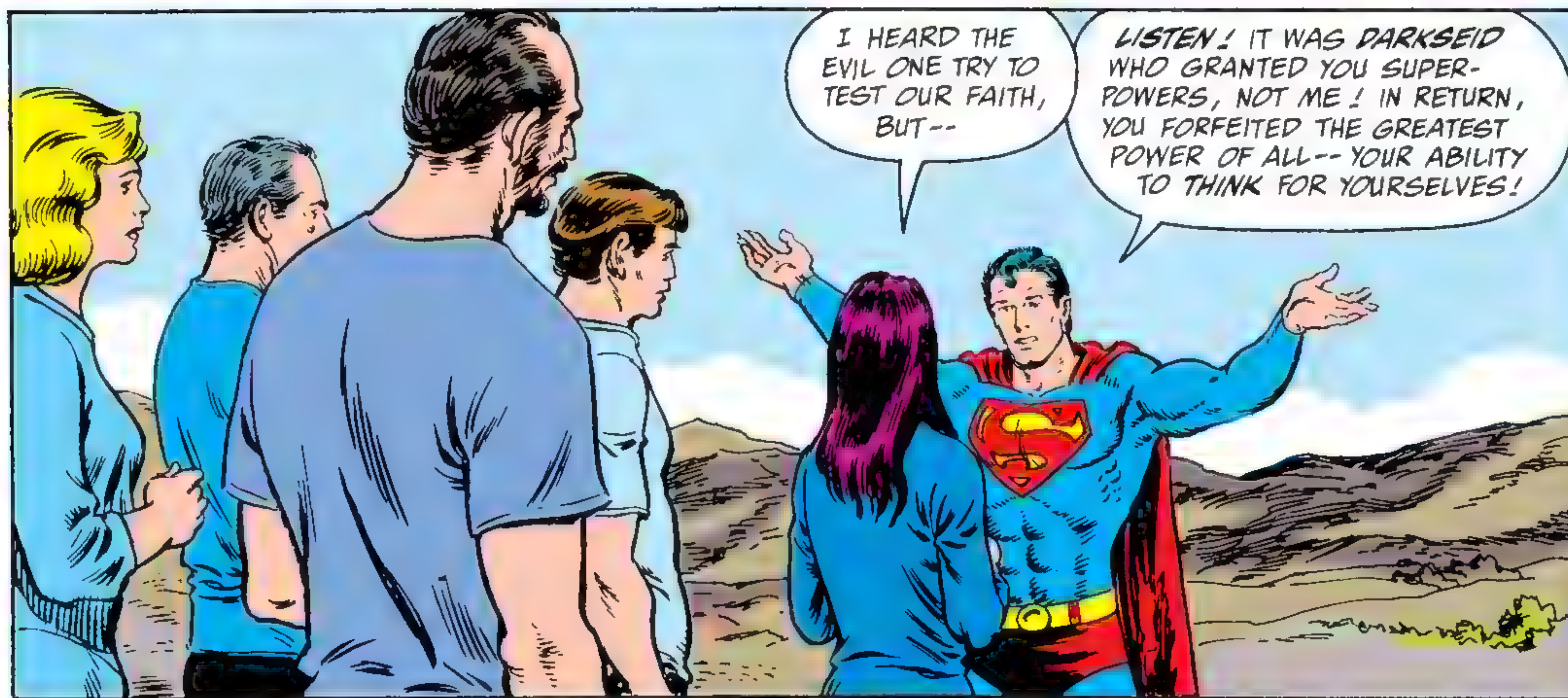
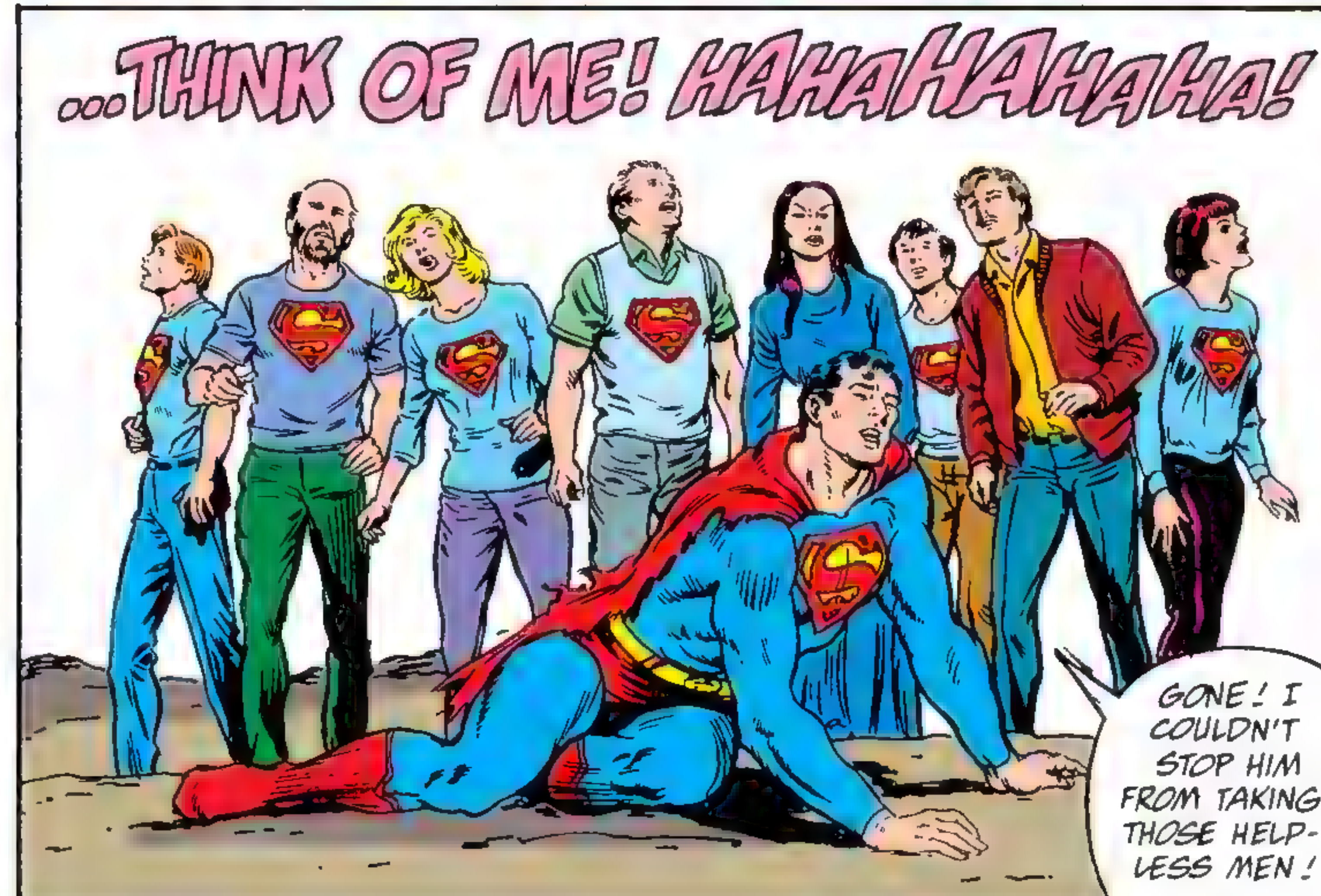
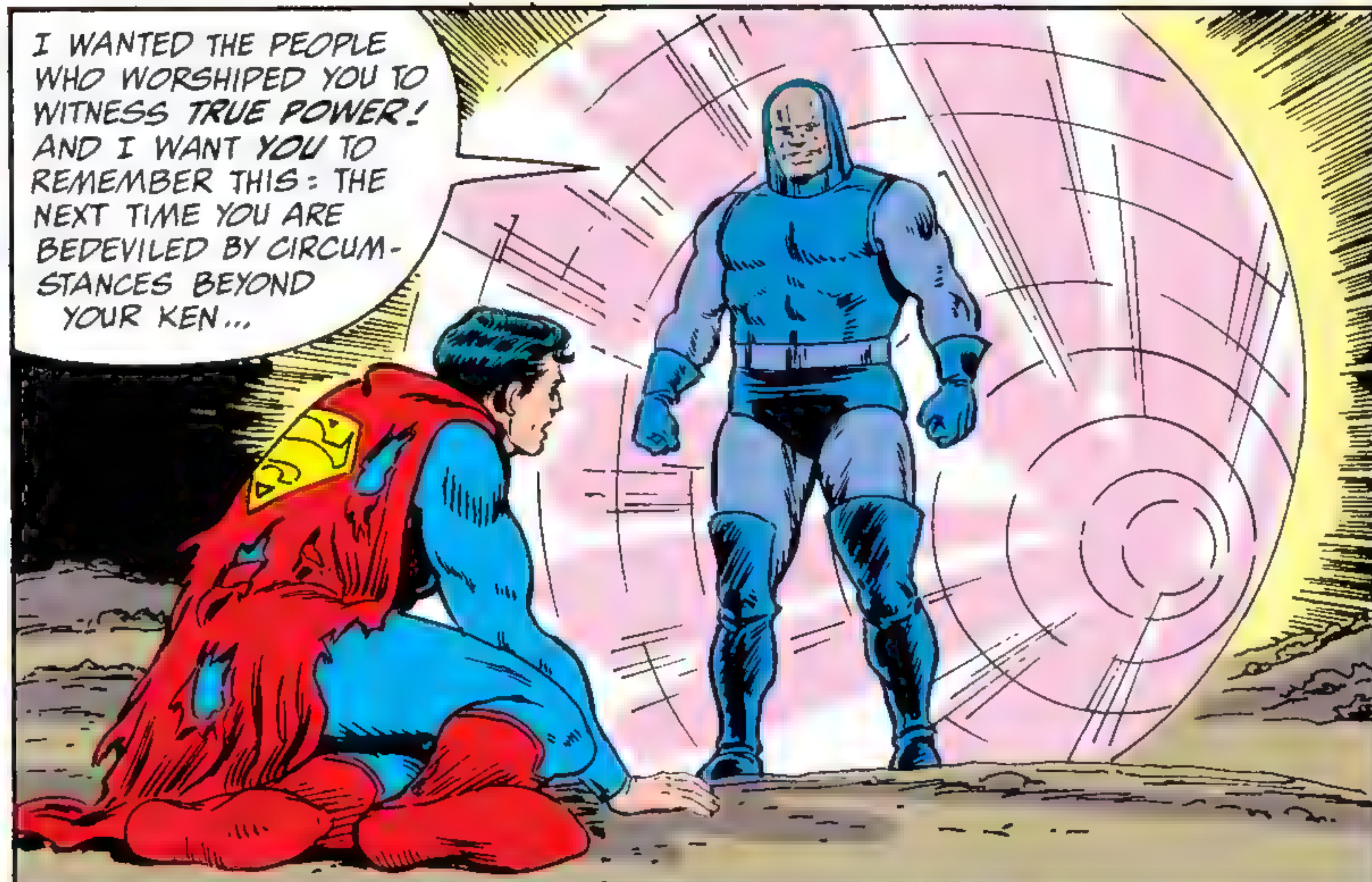
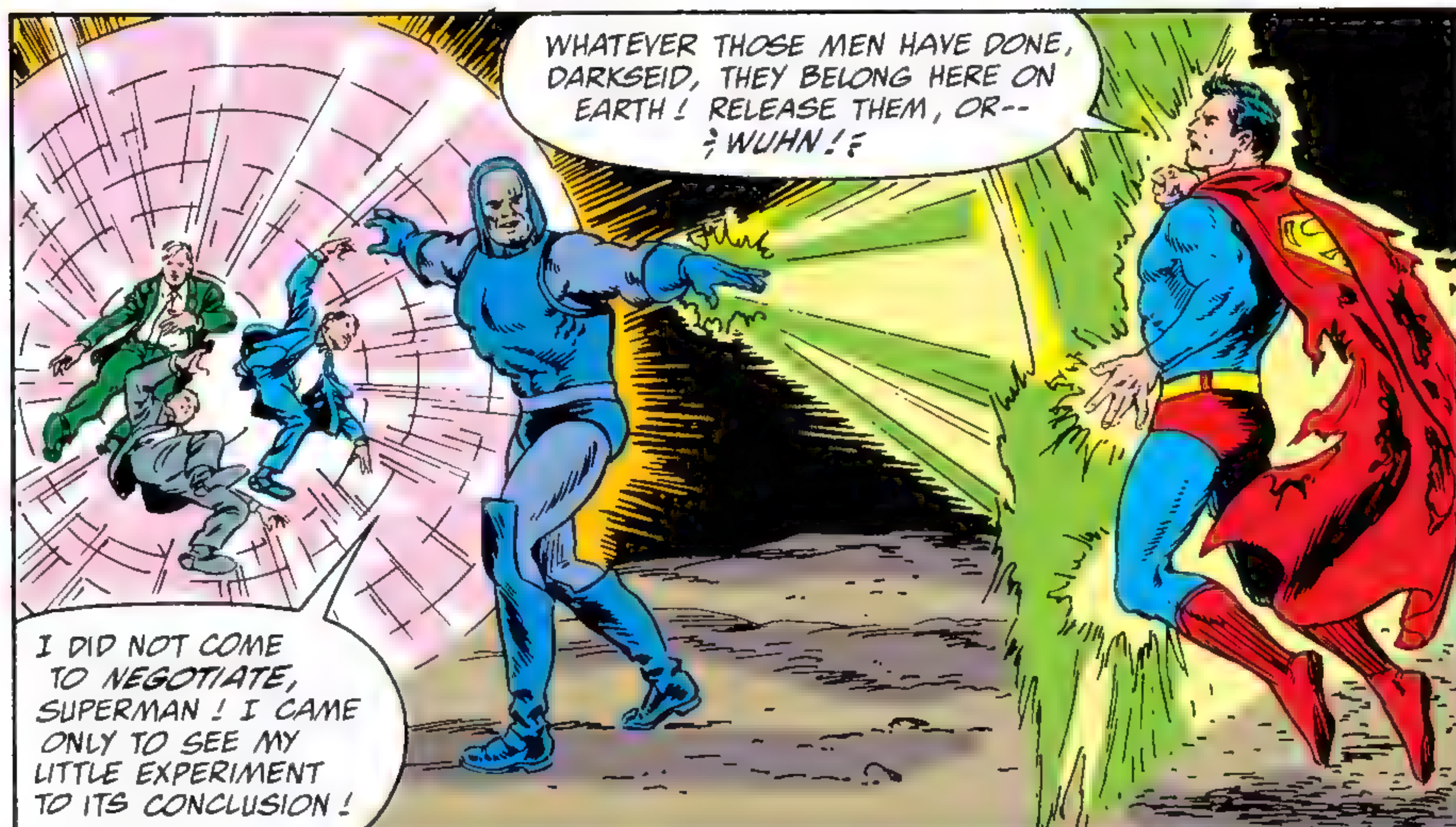


CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK!

IN THE AFTERMATH OF A BIZARRE HOLY WAR, THE POWER BEHIND THE CONFLICT-- DARKSEID, LORD OF APOKOLIPS-- HAS TAKEN JOHN HODGES AND HIS FELLOW CONSORTIUM LEADERS PRISONER.

"THE POWER WITHIN"

MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
ROGER STERN - WRITER
-with special thanks to TOM PEYER!

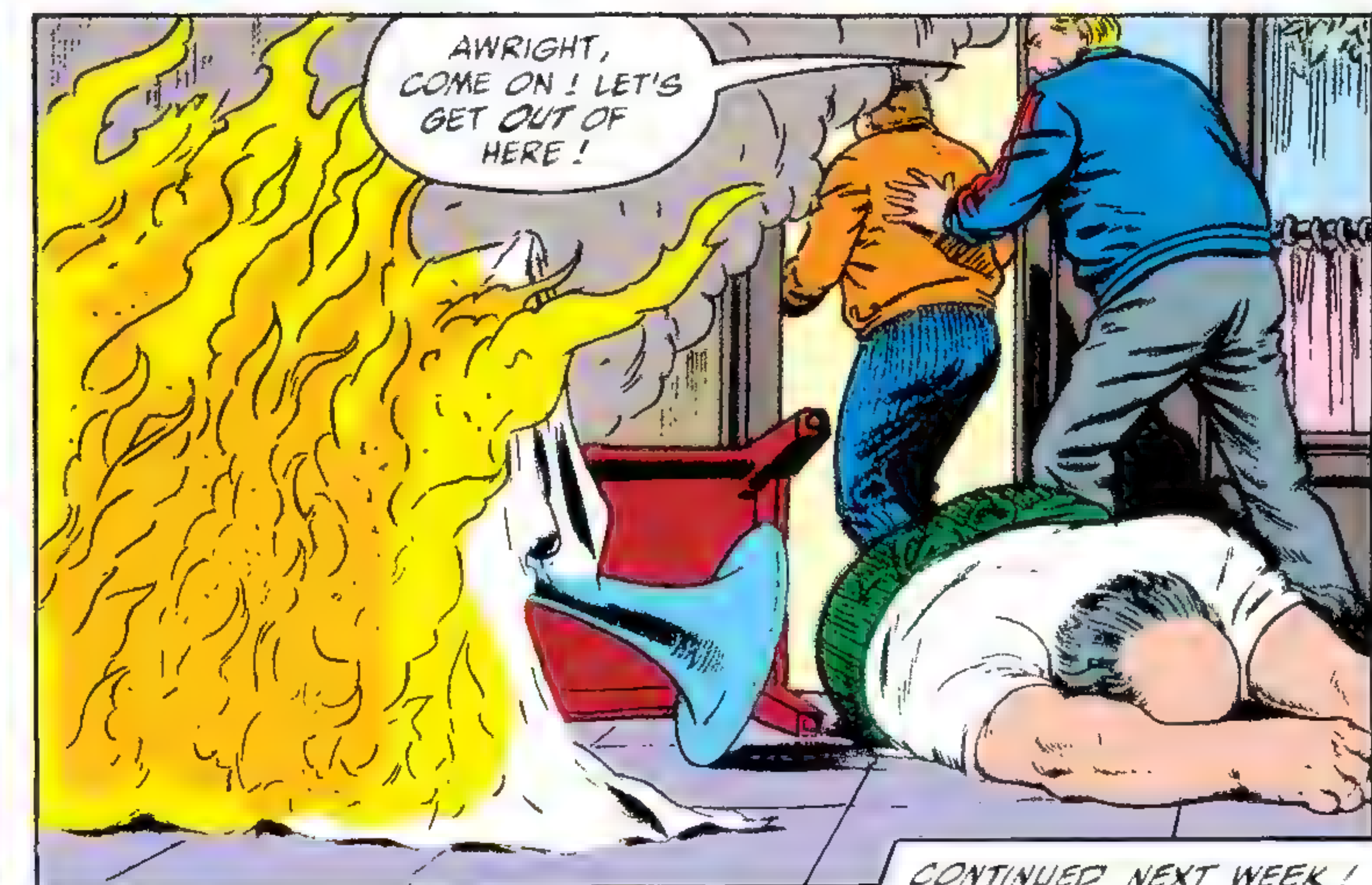
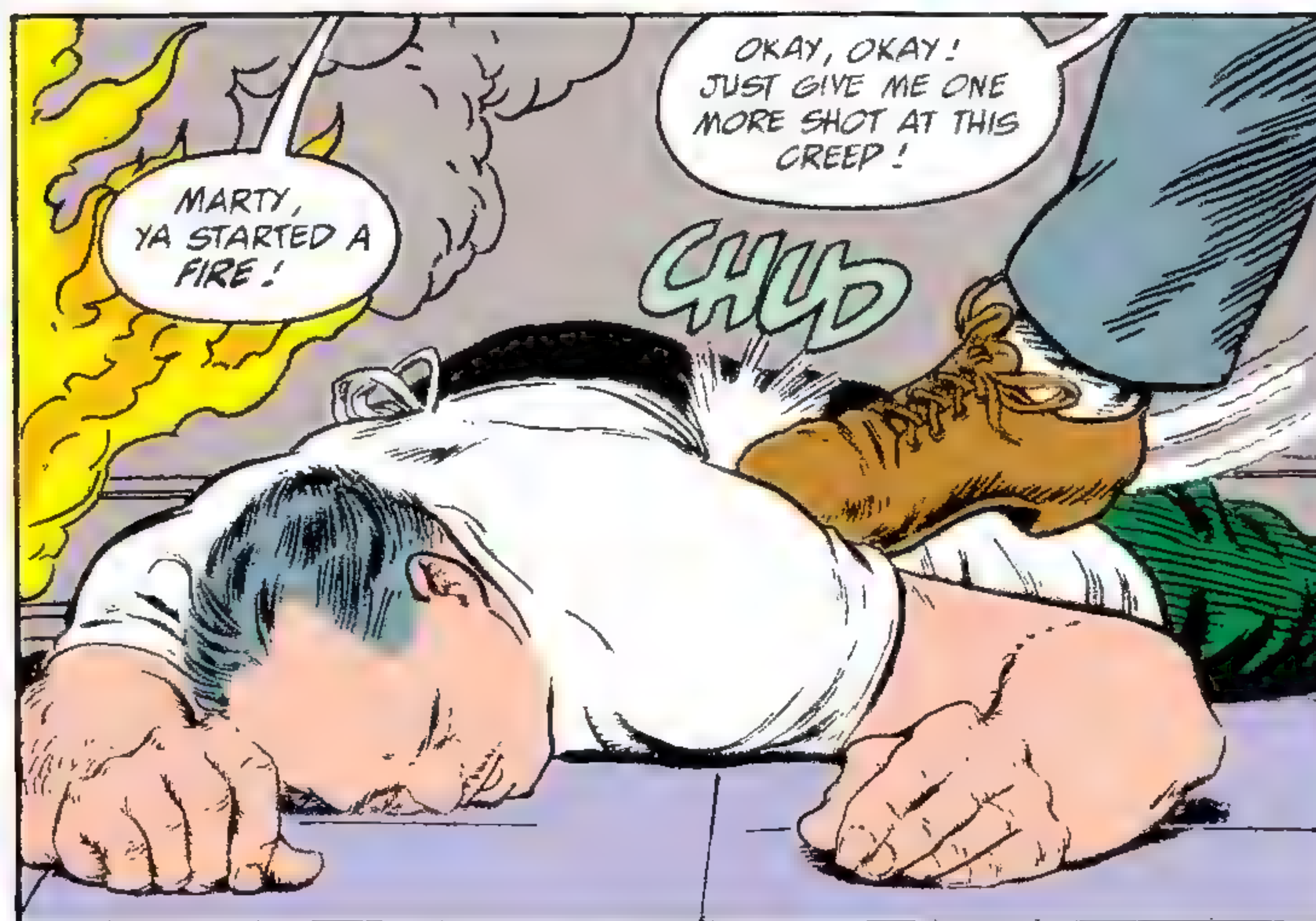
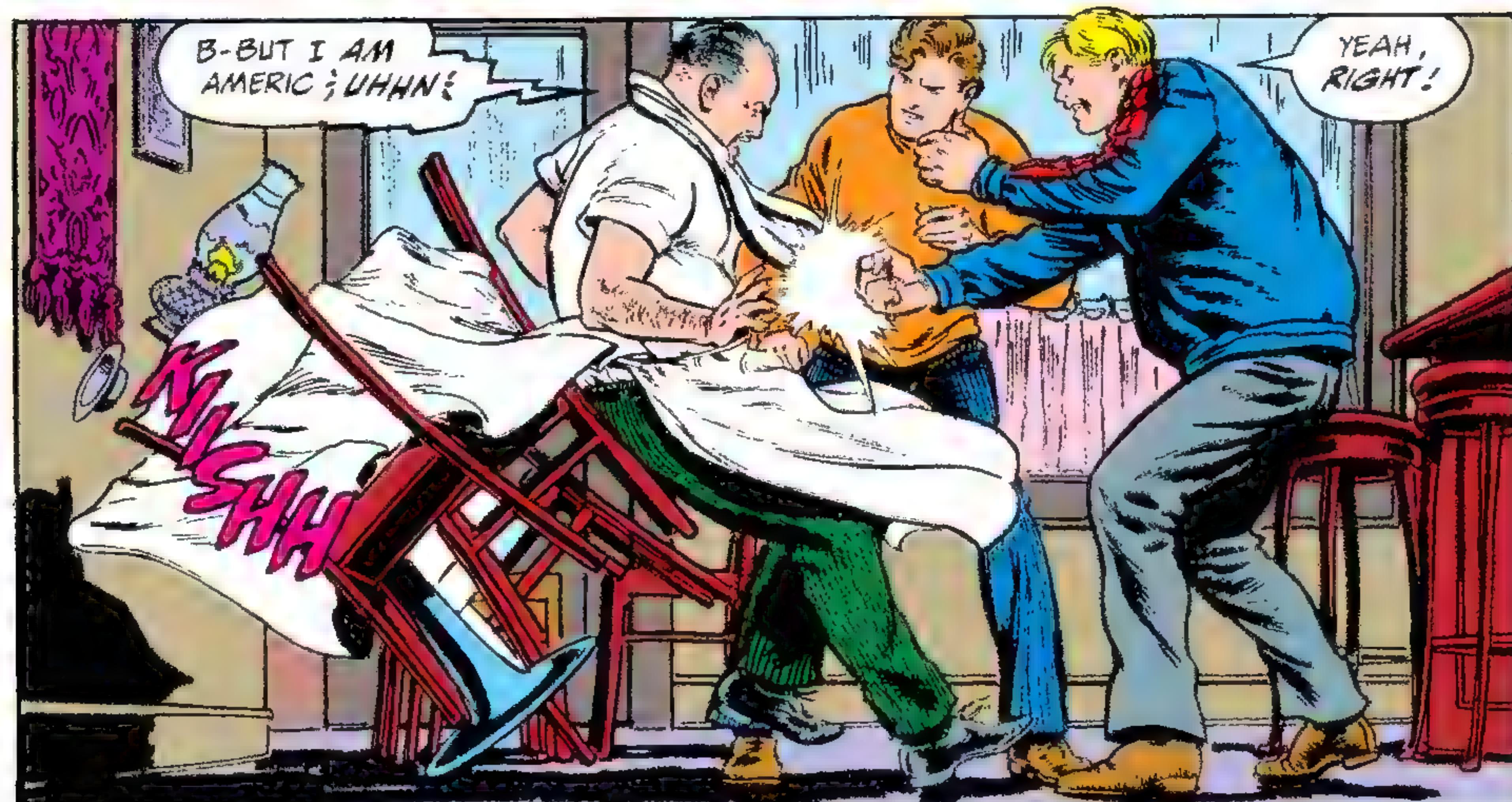
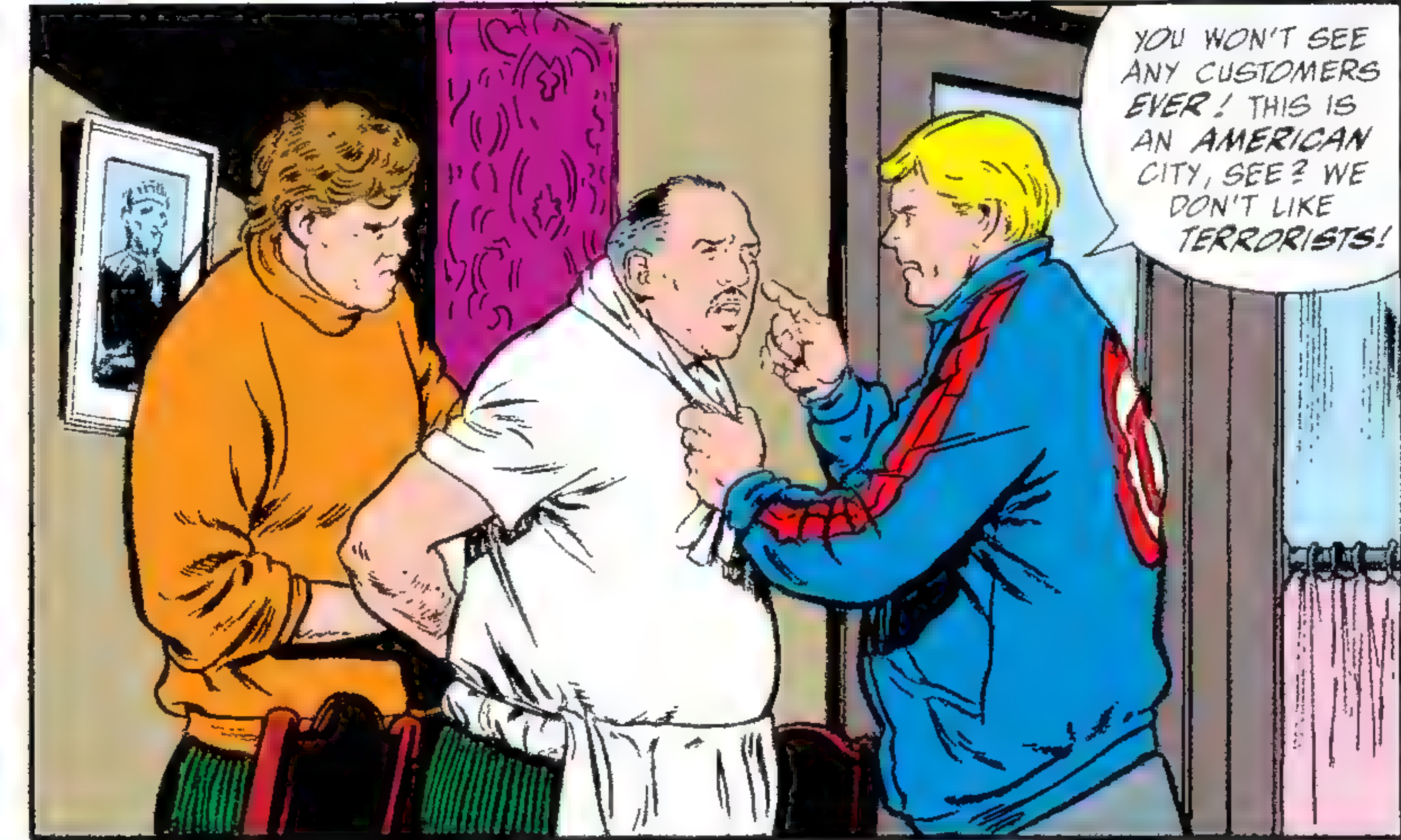
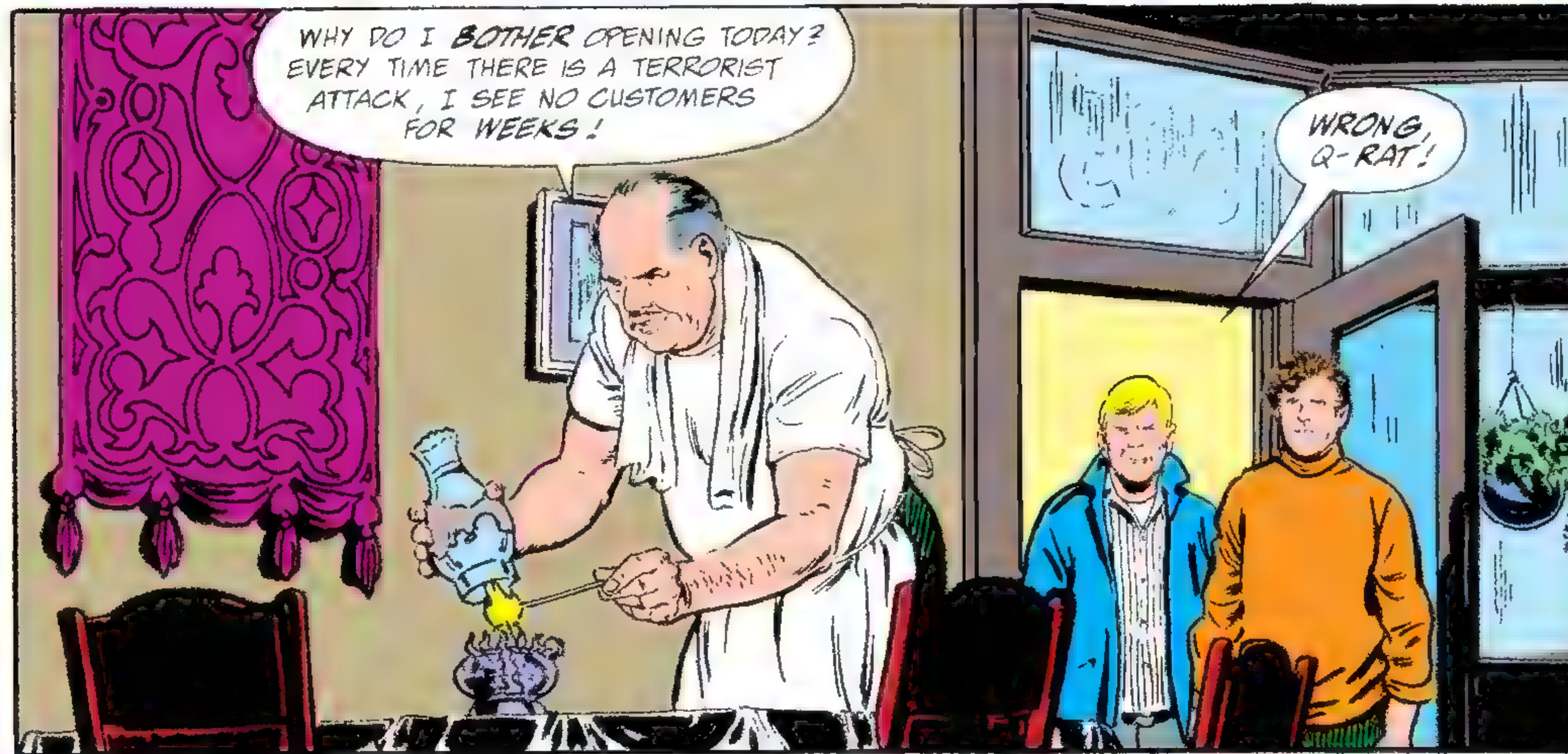
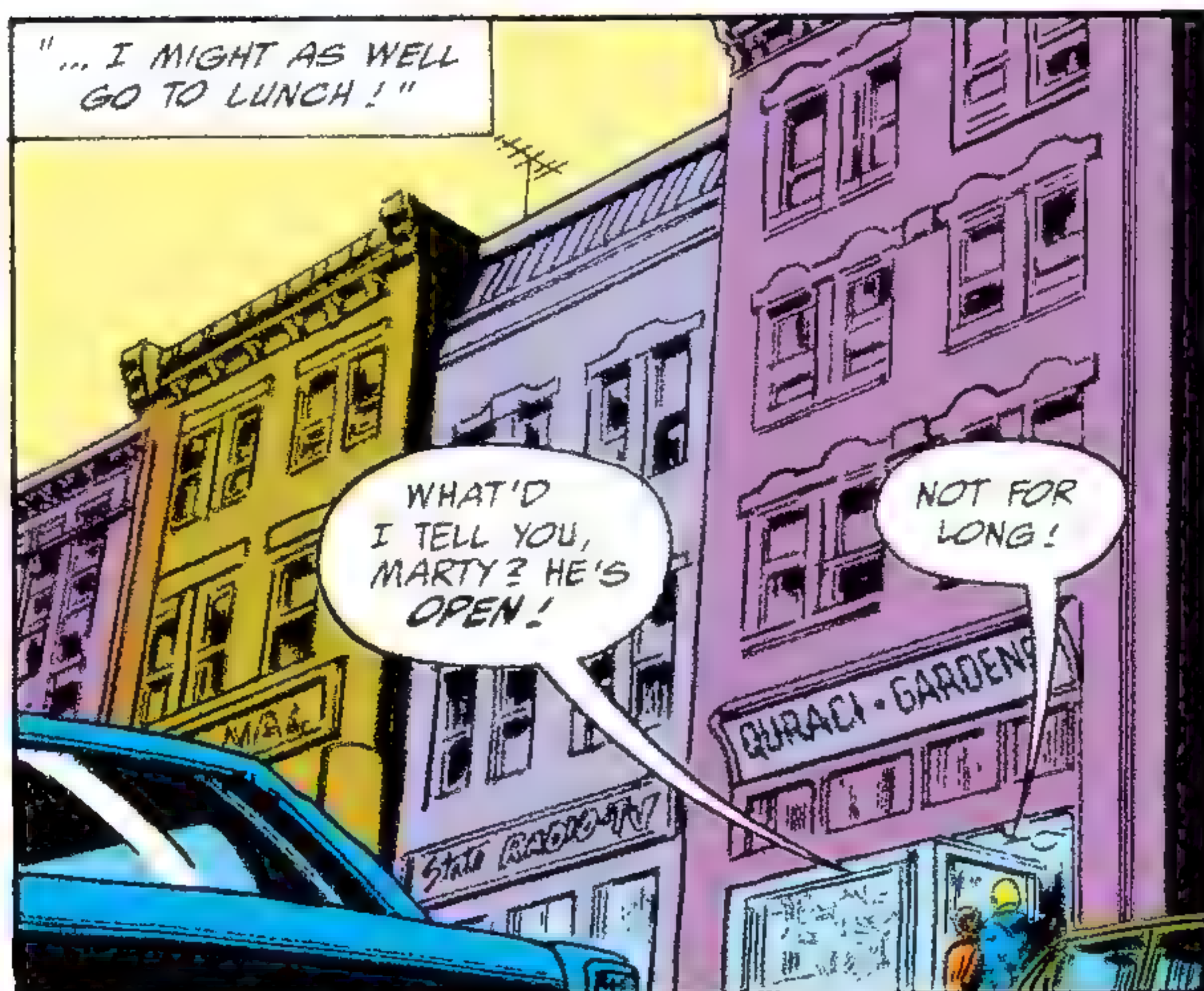
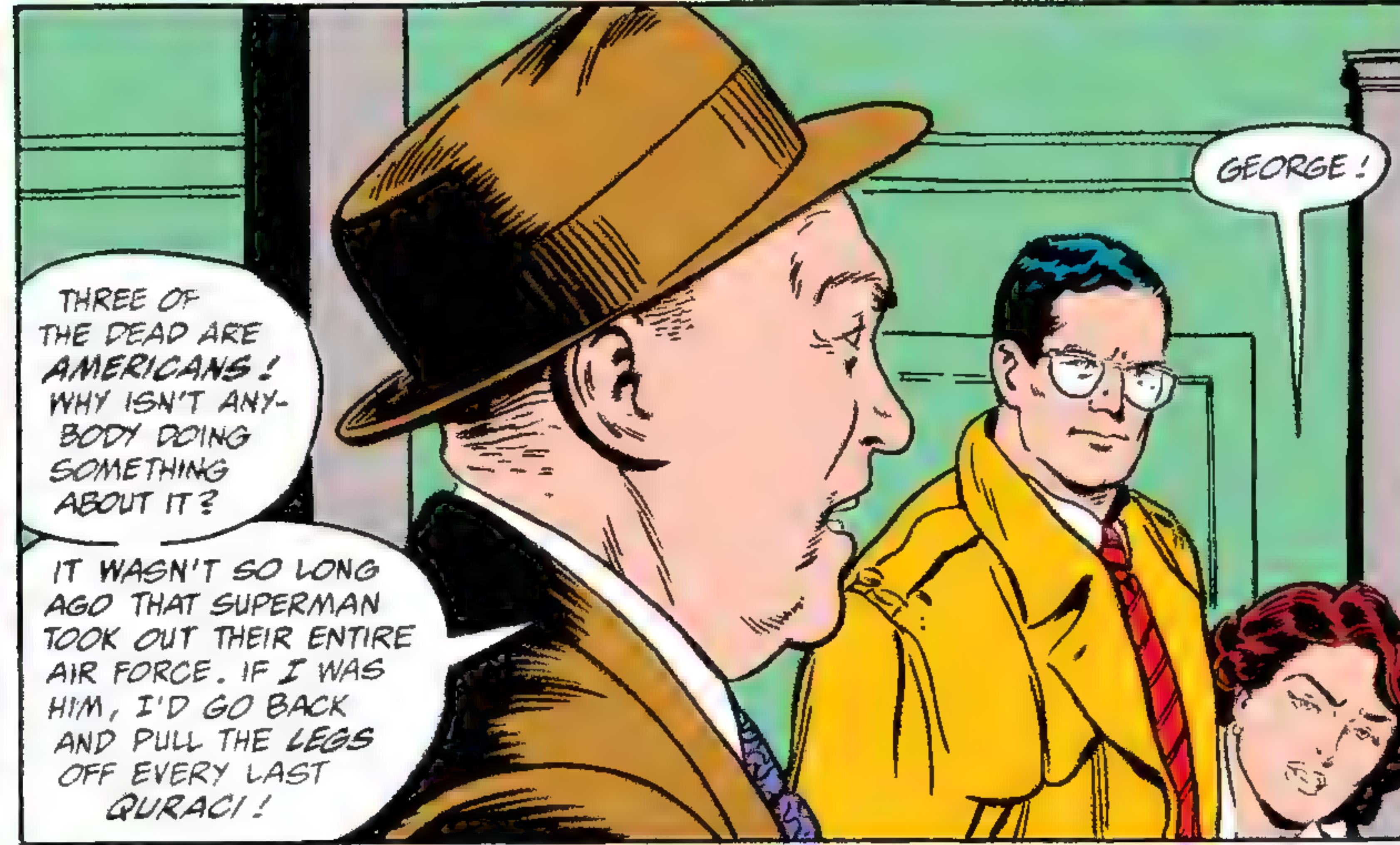
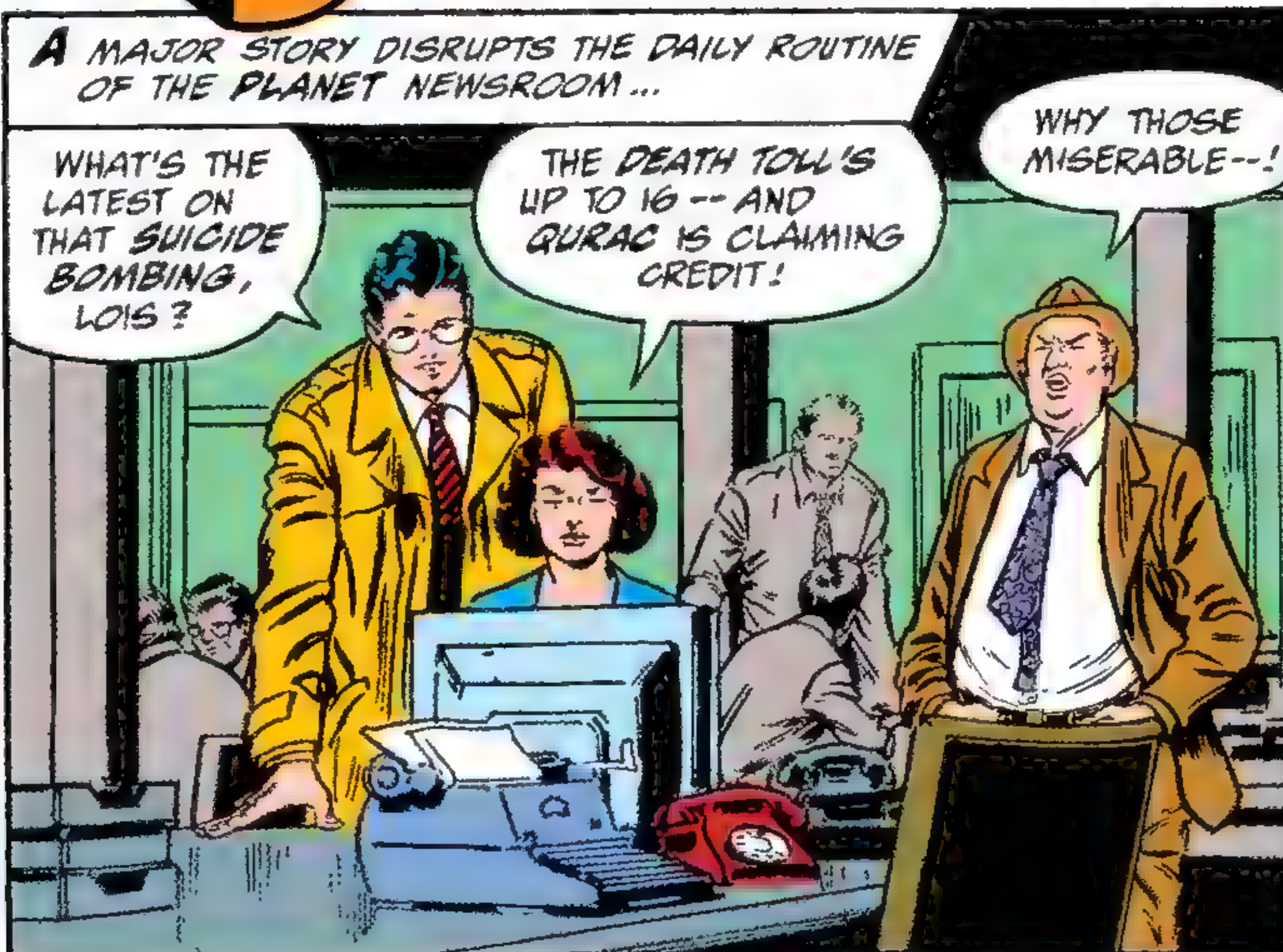


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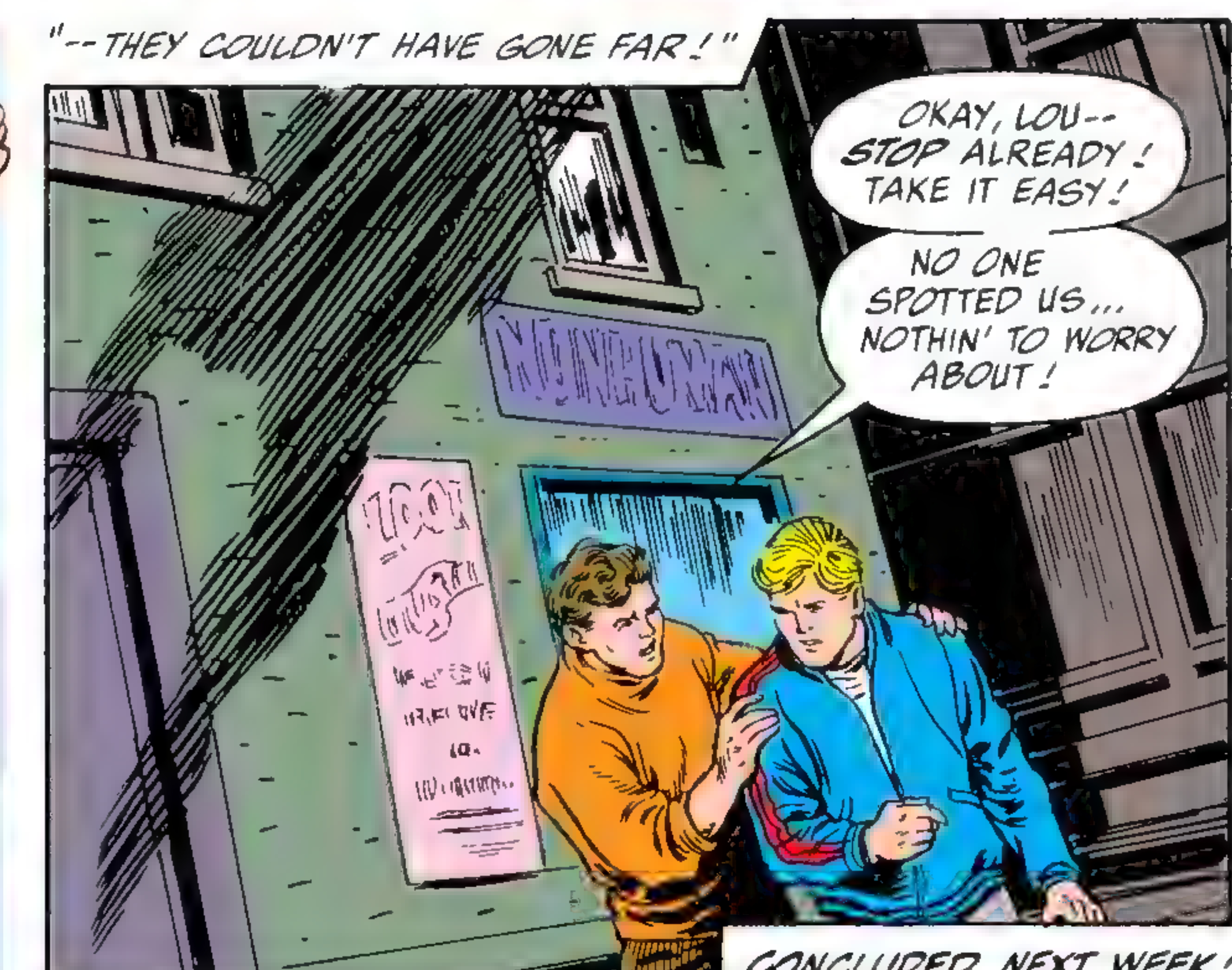
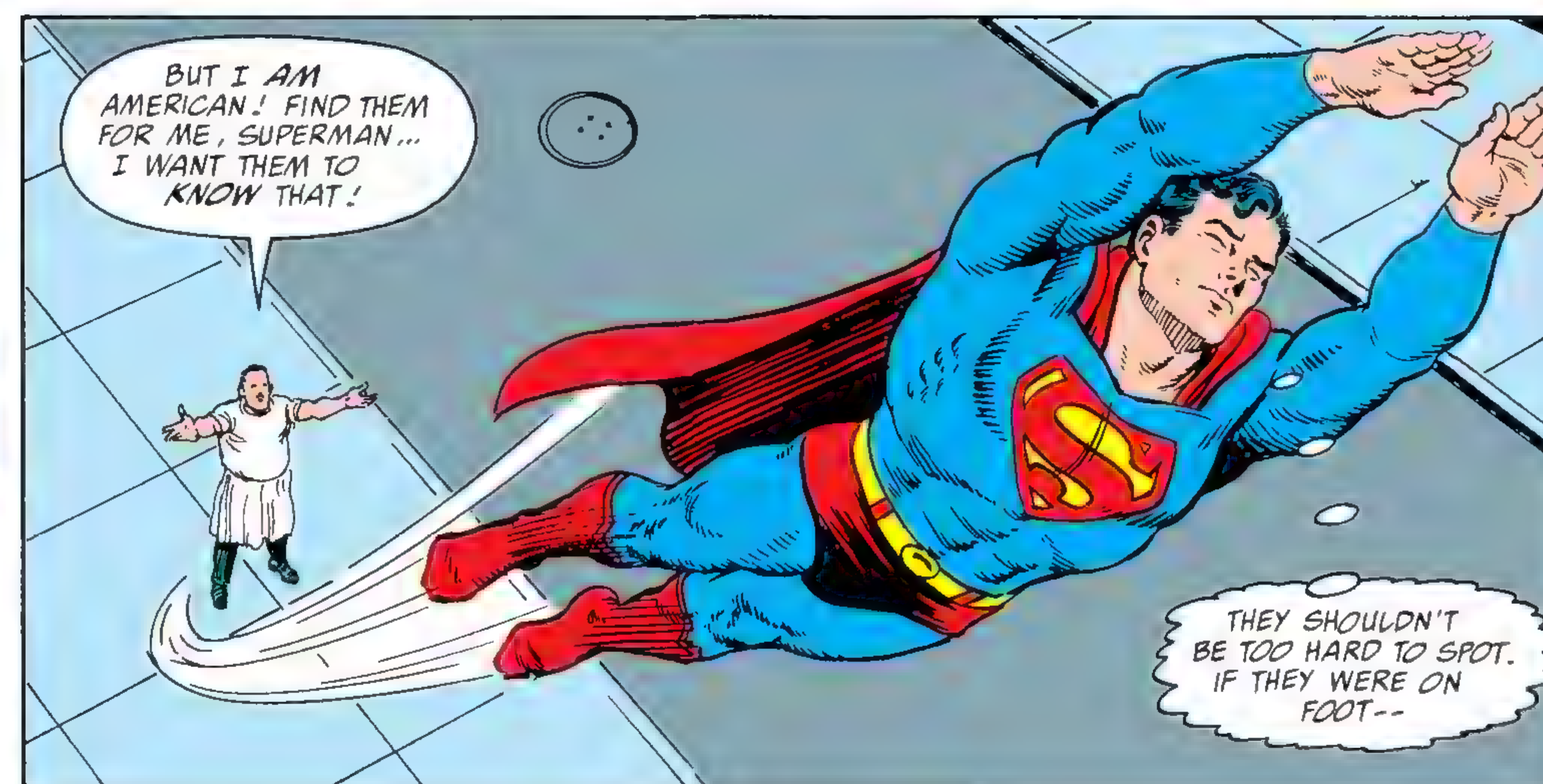
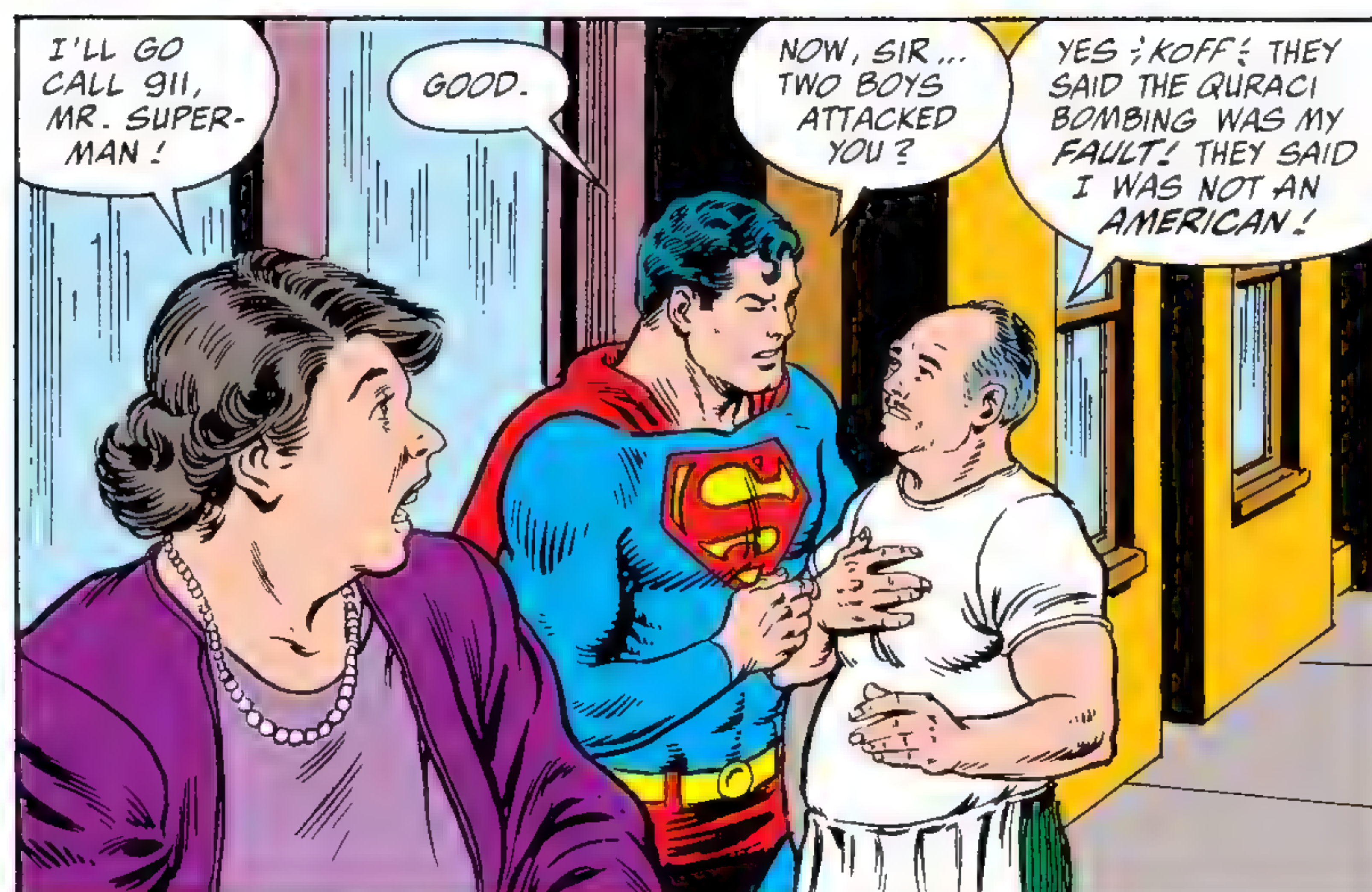
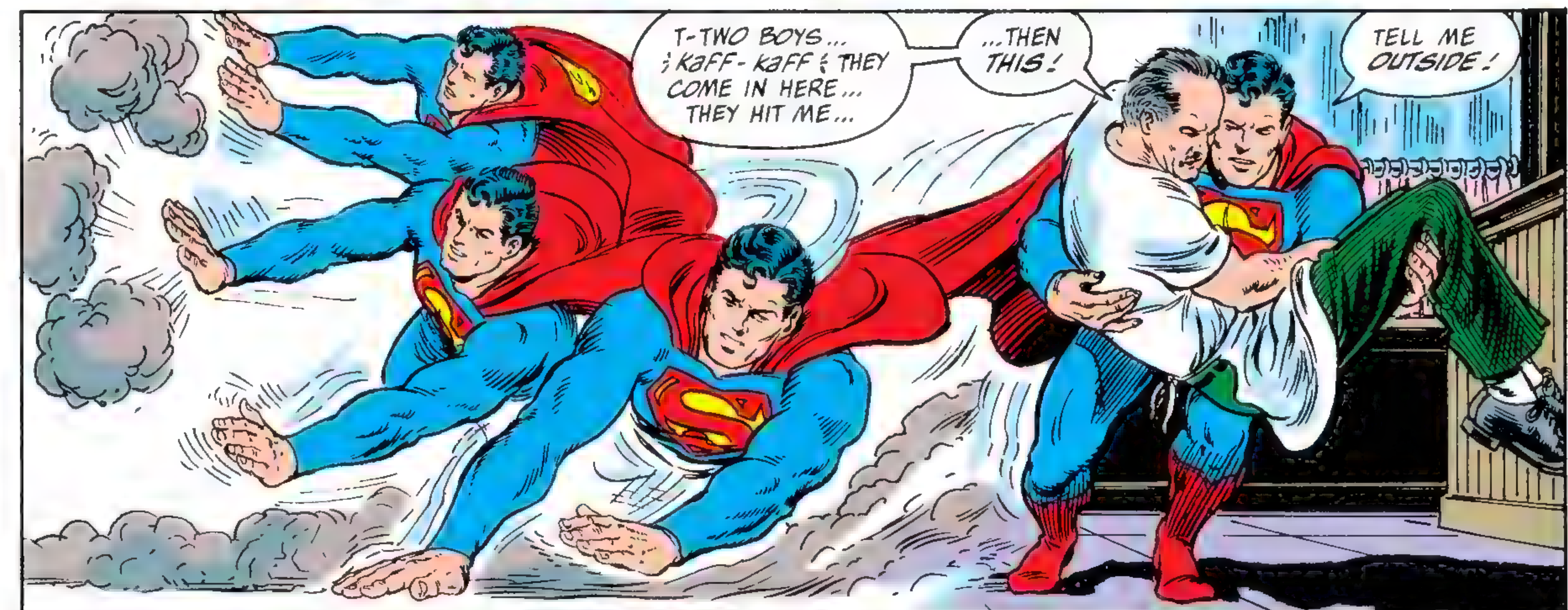
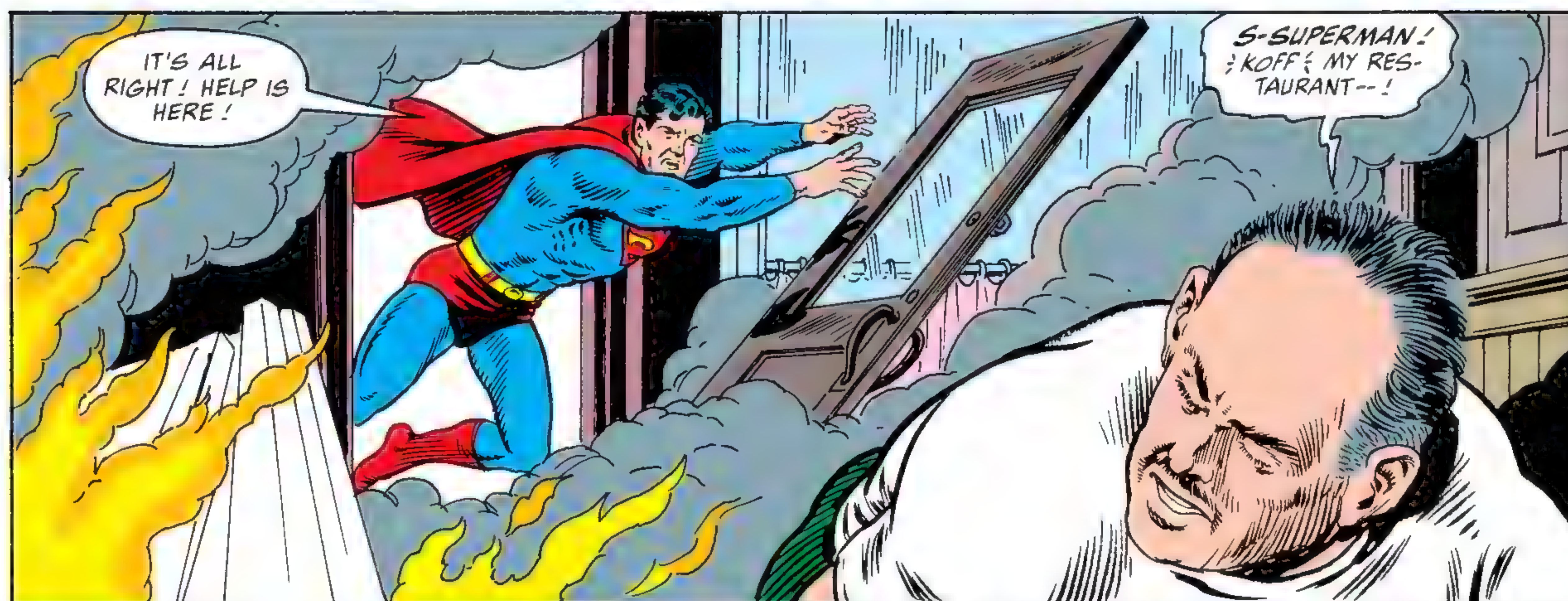
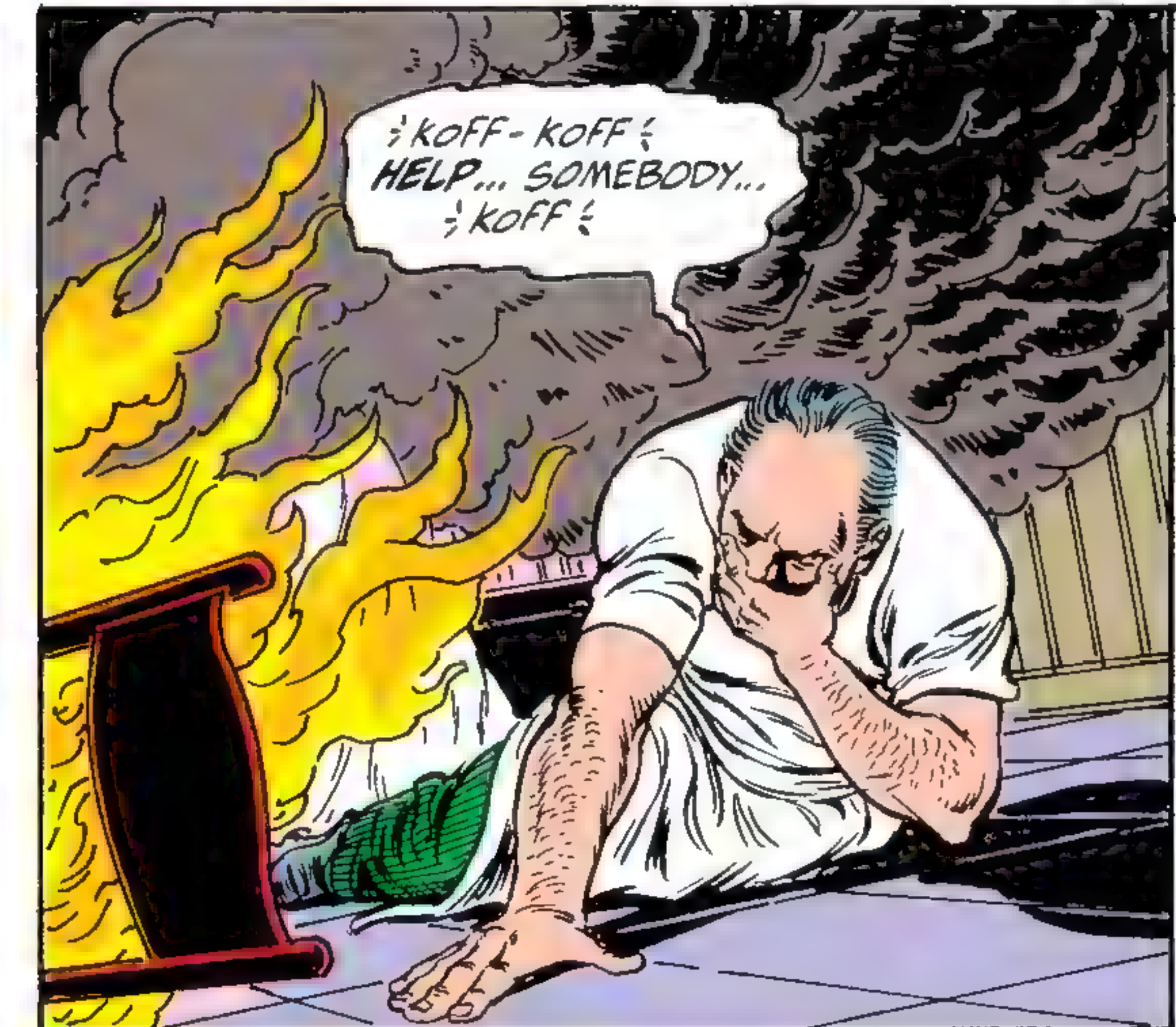
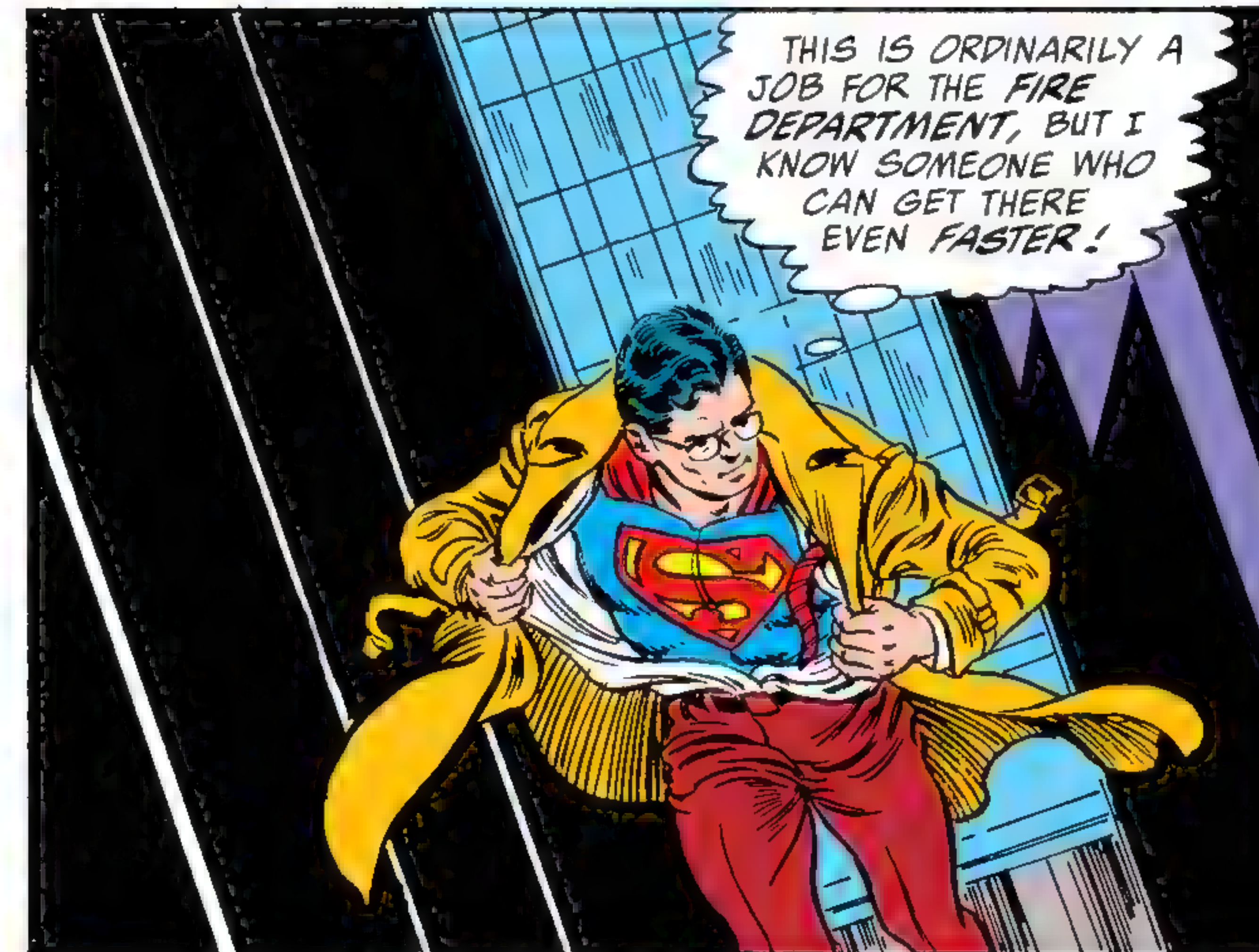
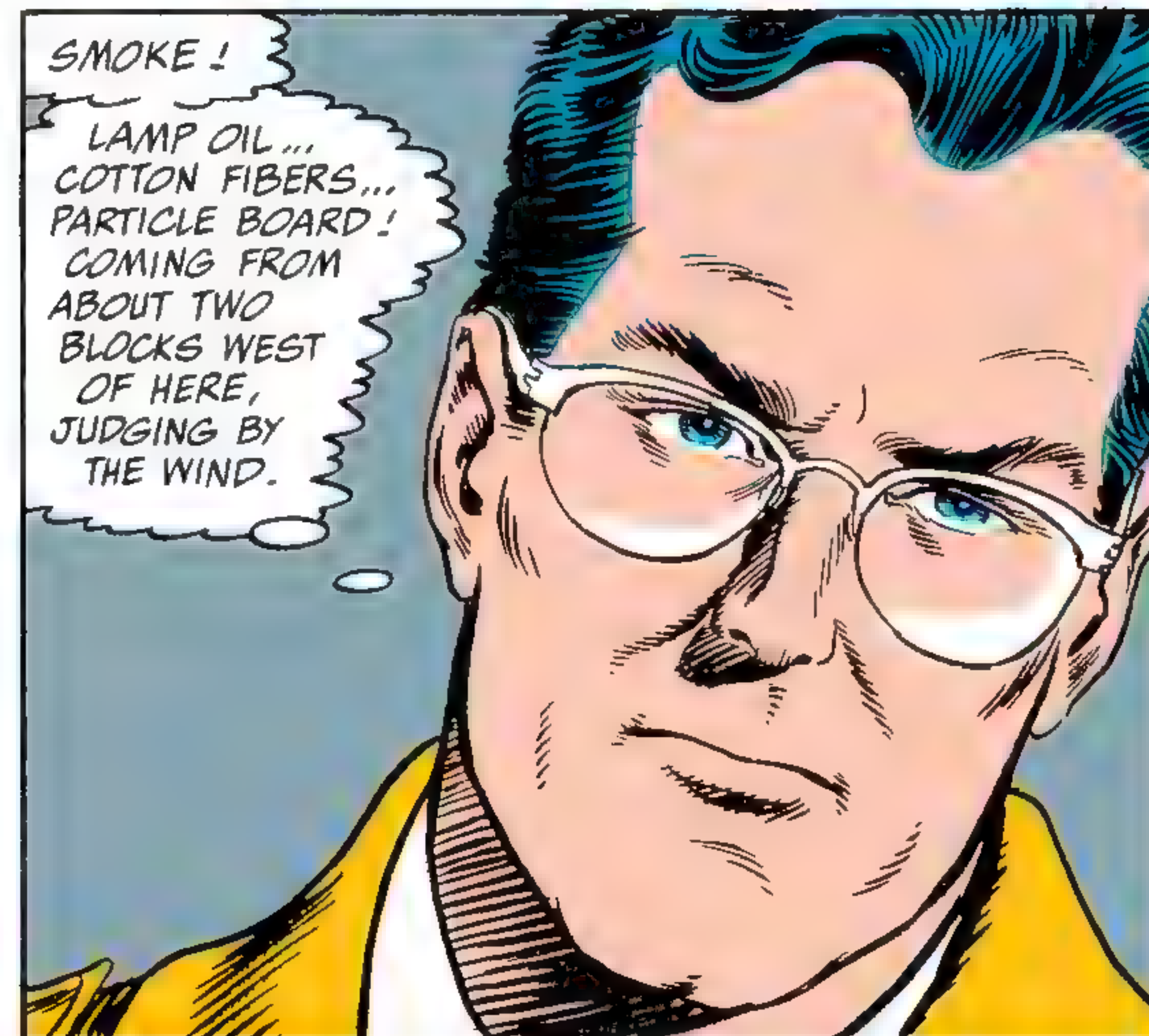
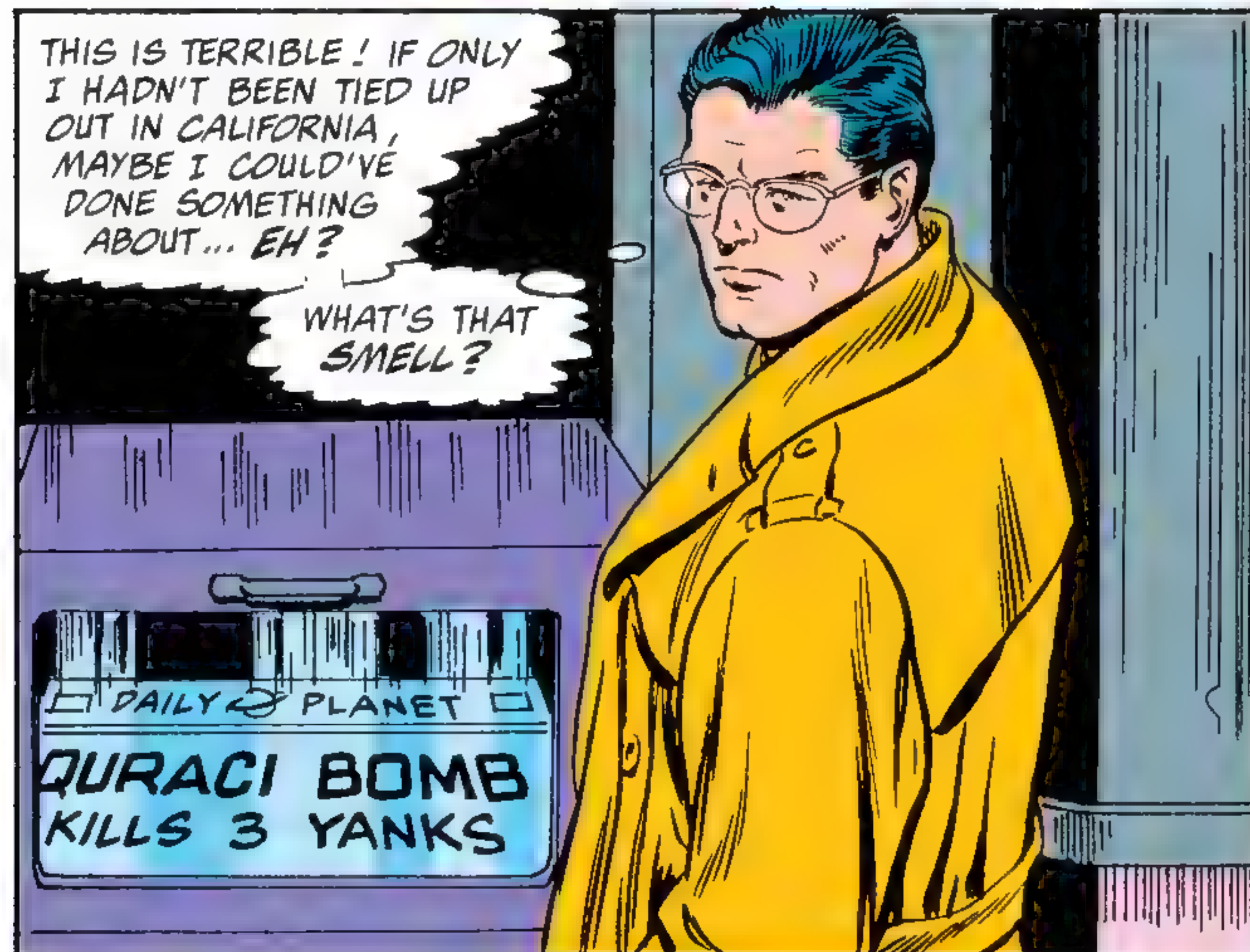
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JOE SHUSTER

"AN EYE FOR AN EYE"

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZILUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR
Special thanks to TOM PEYER



CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!

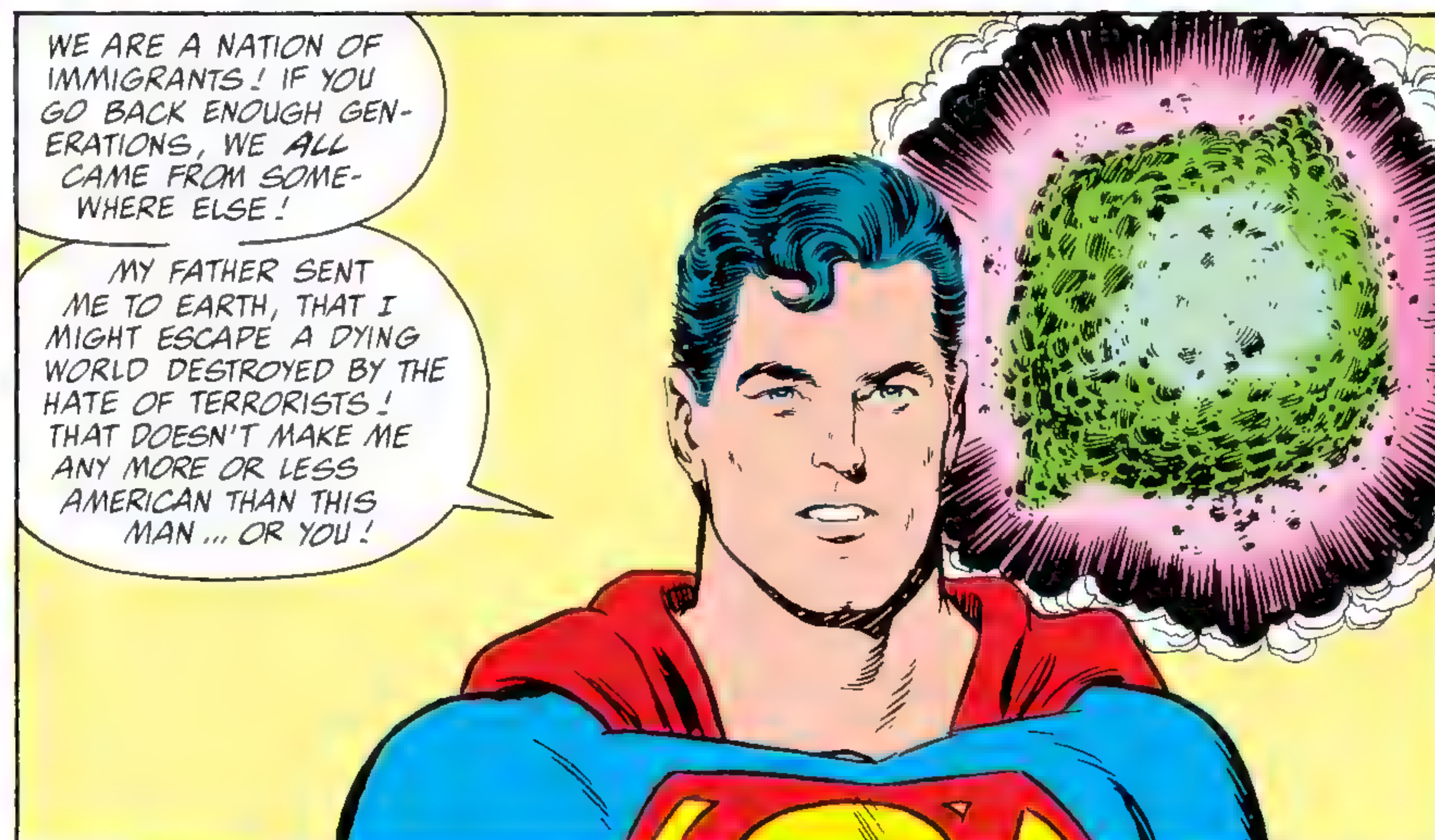
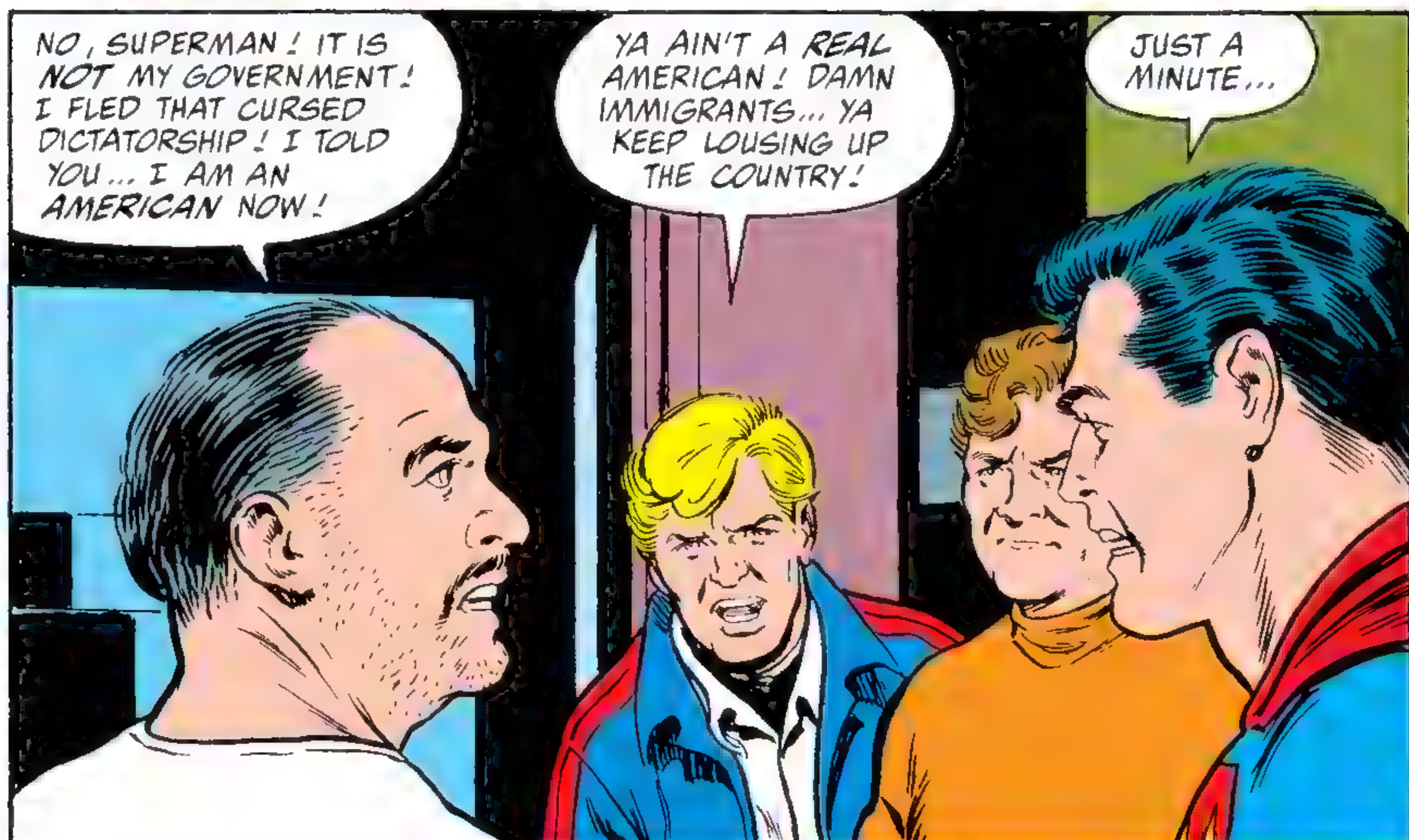
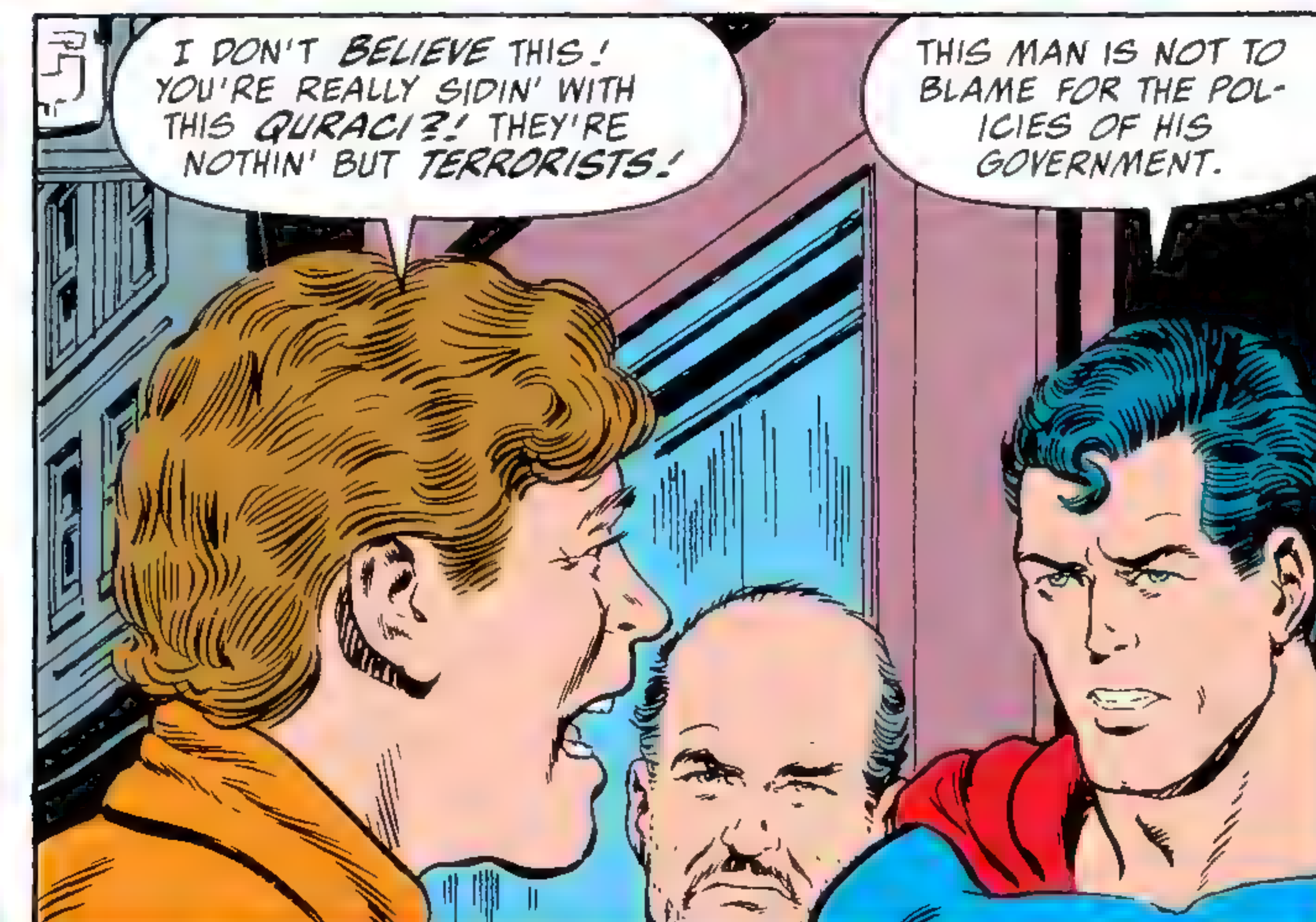
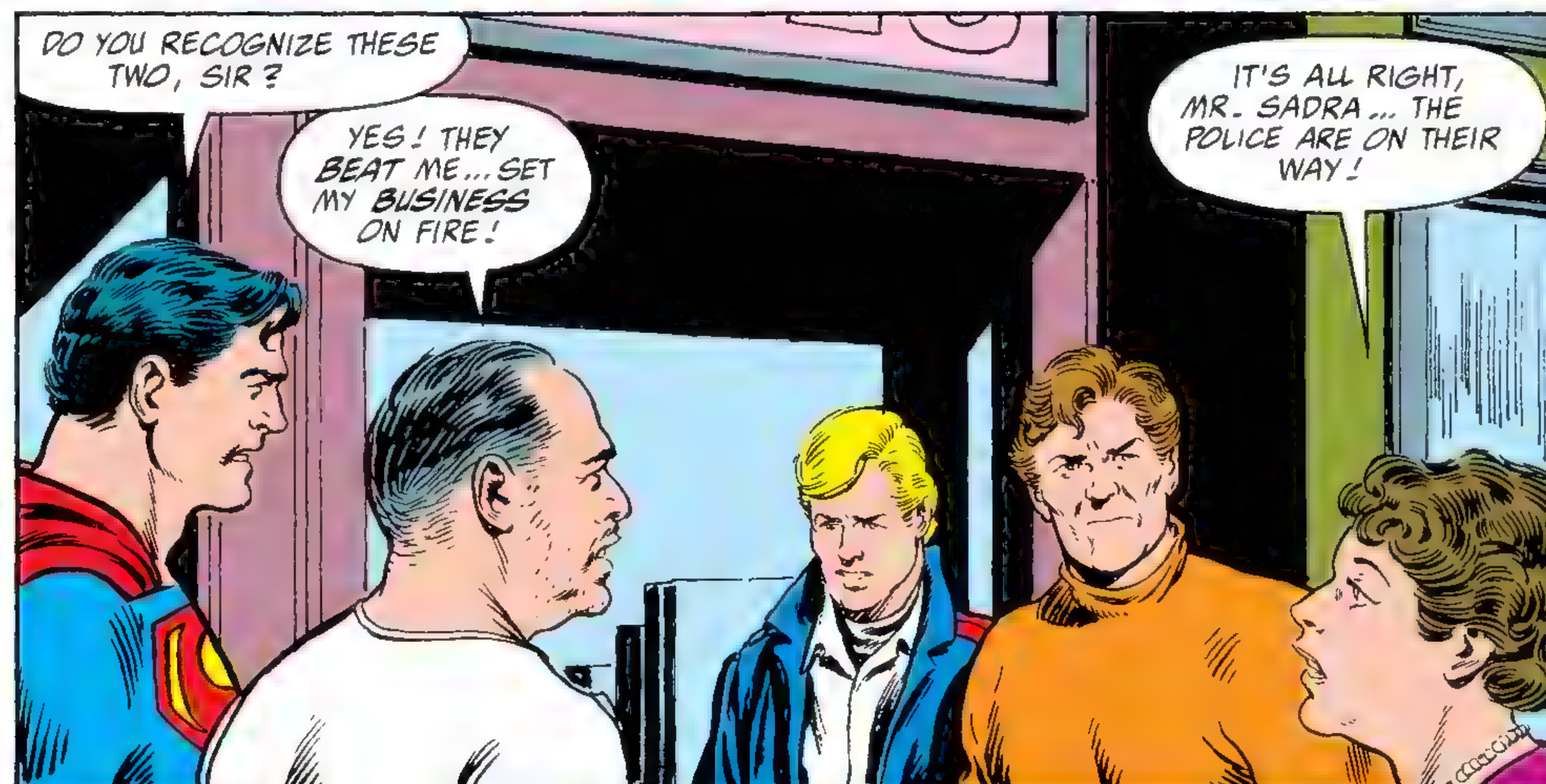
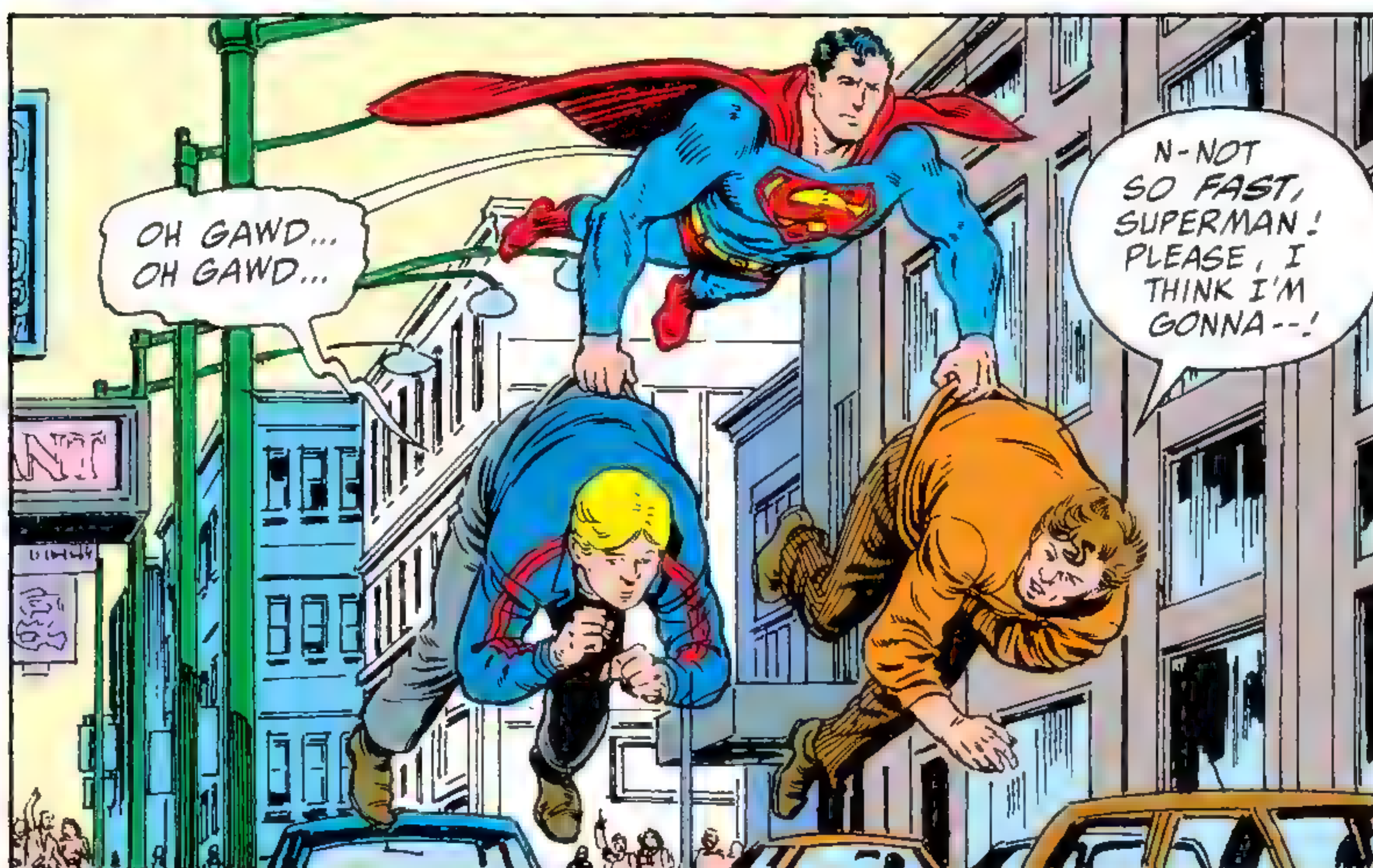
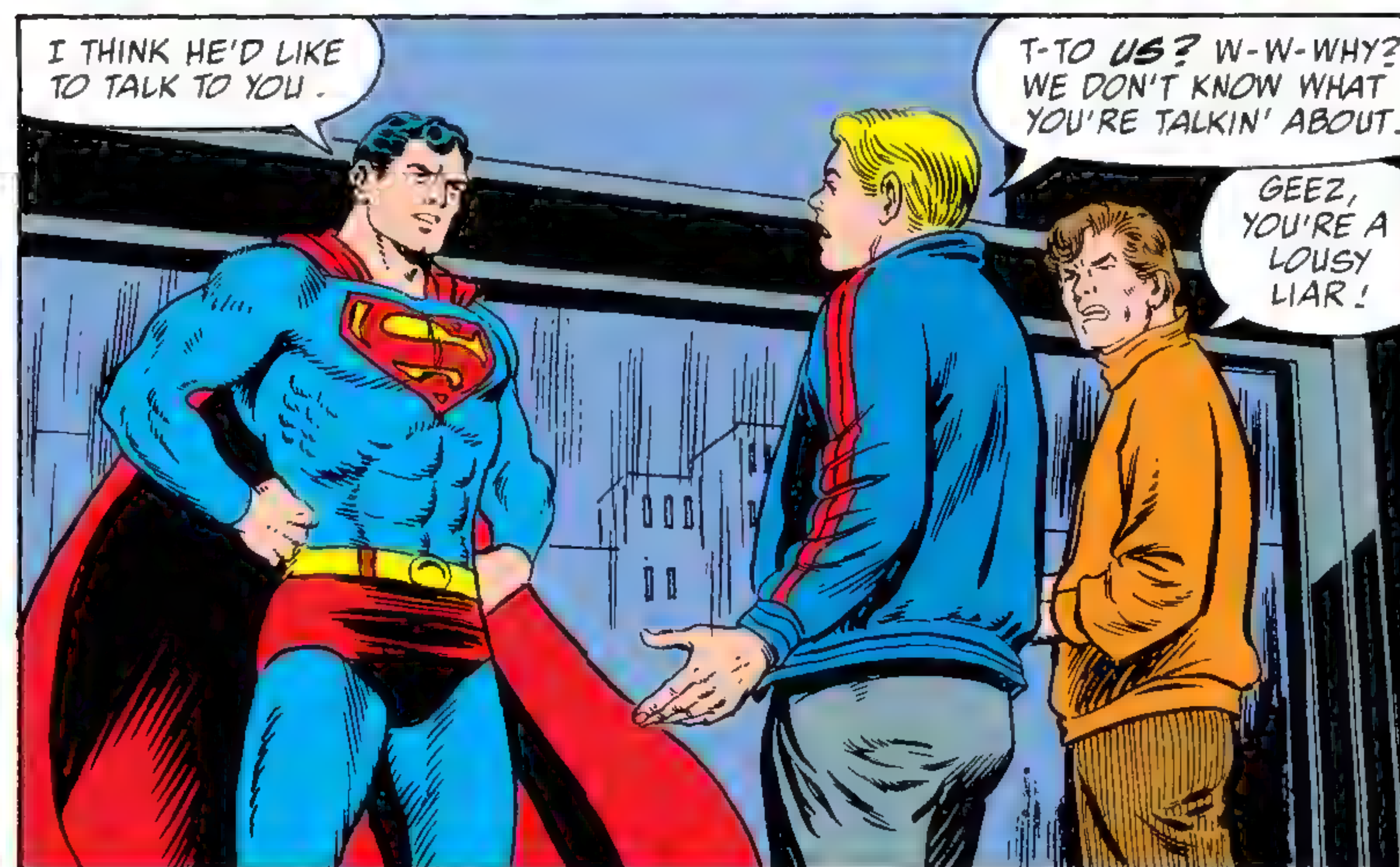


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JUS TICE FOR ALL

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
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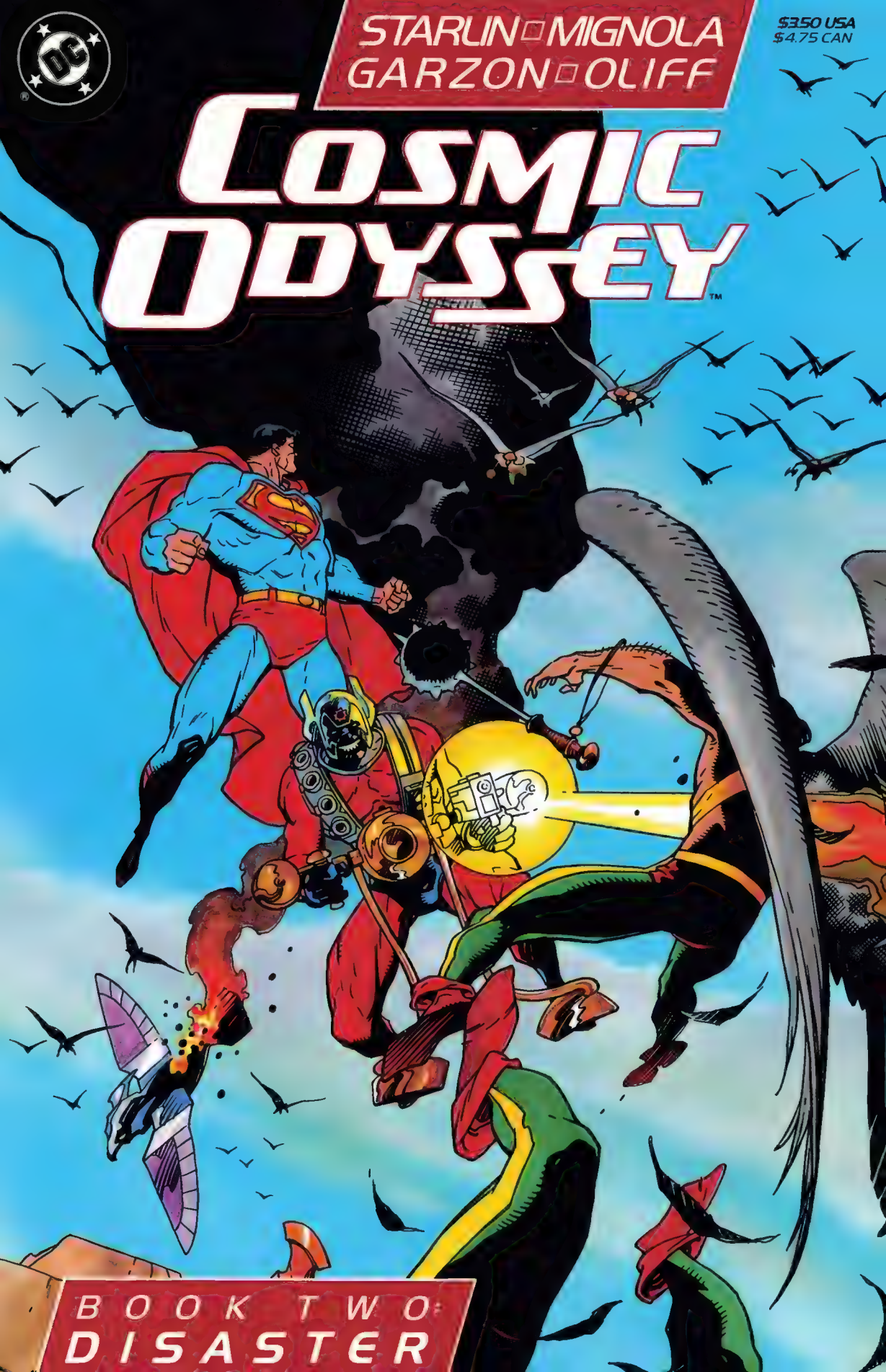
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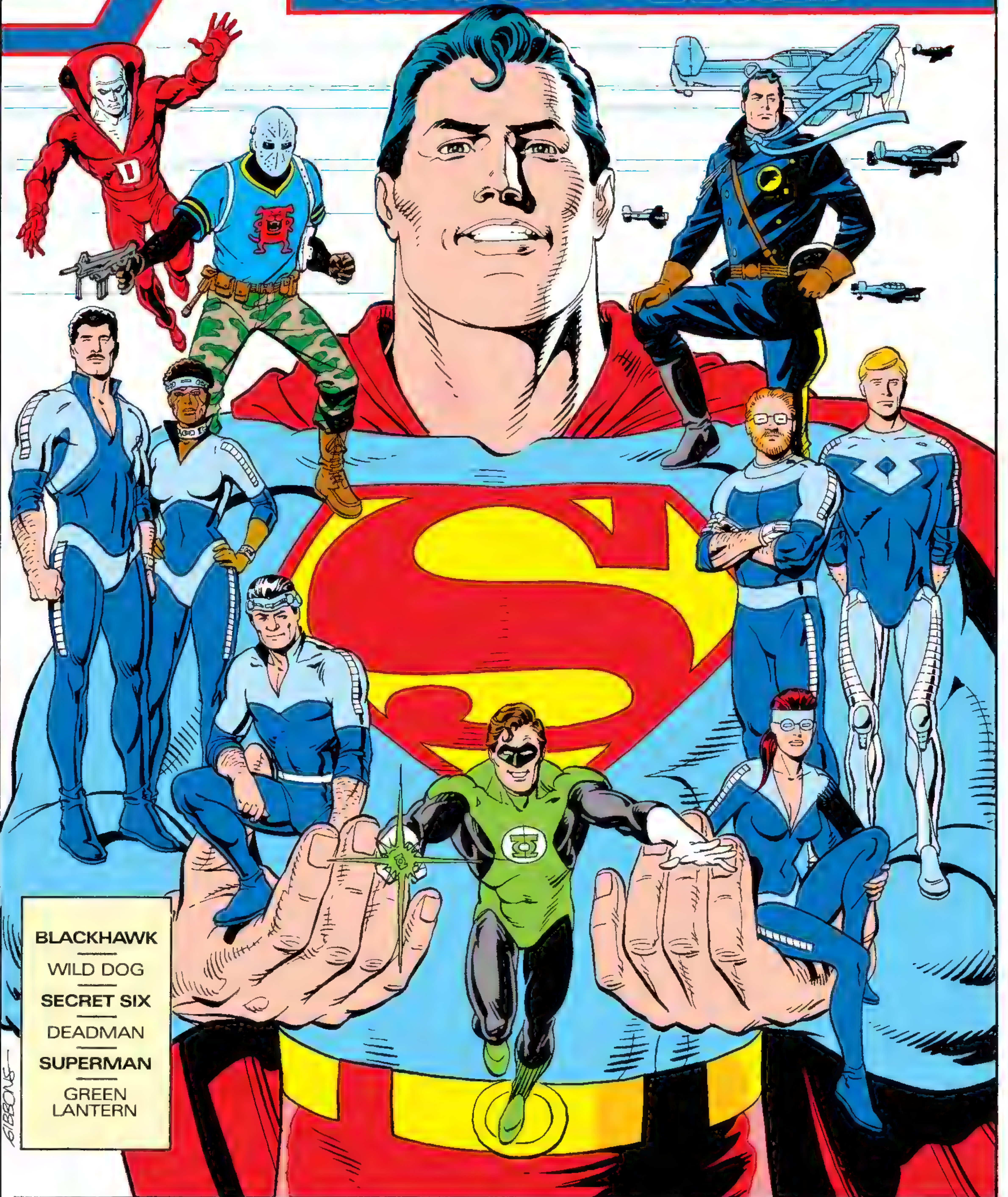


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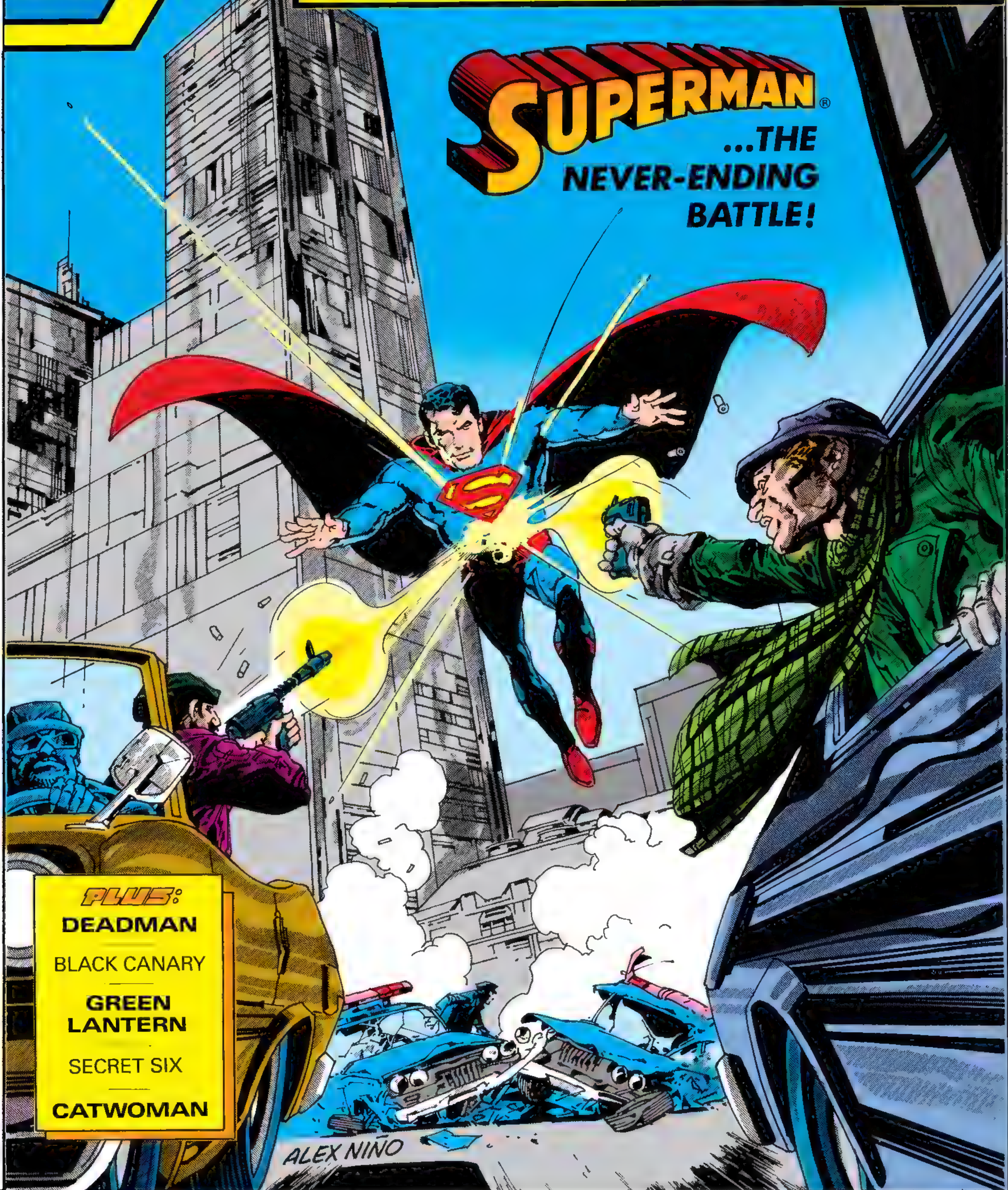
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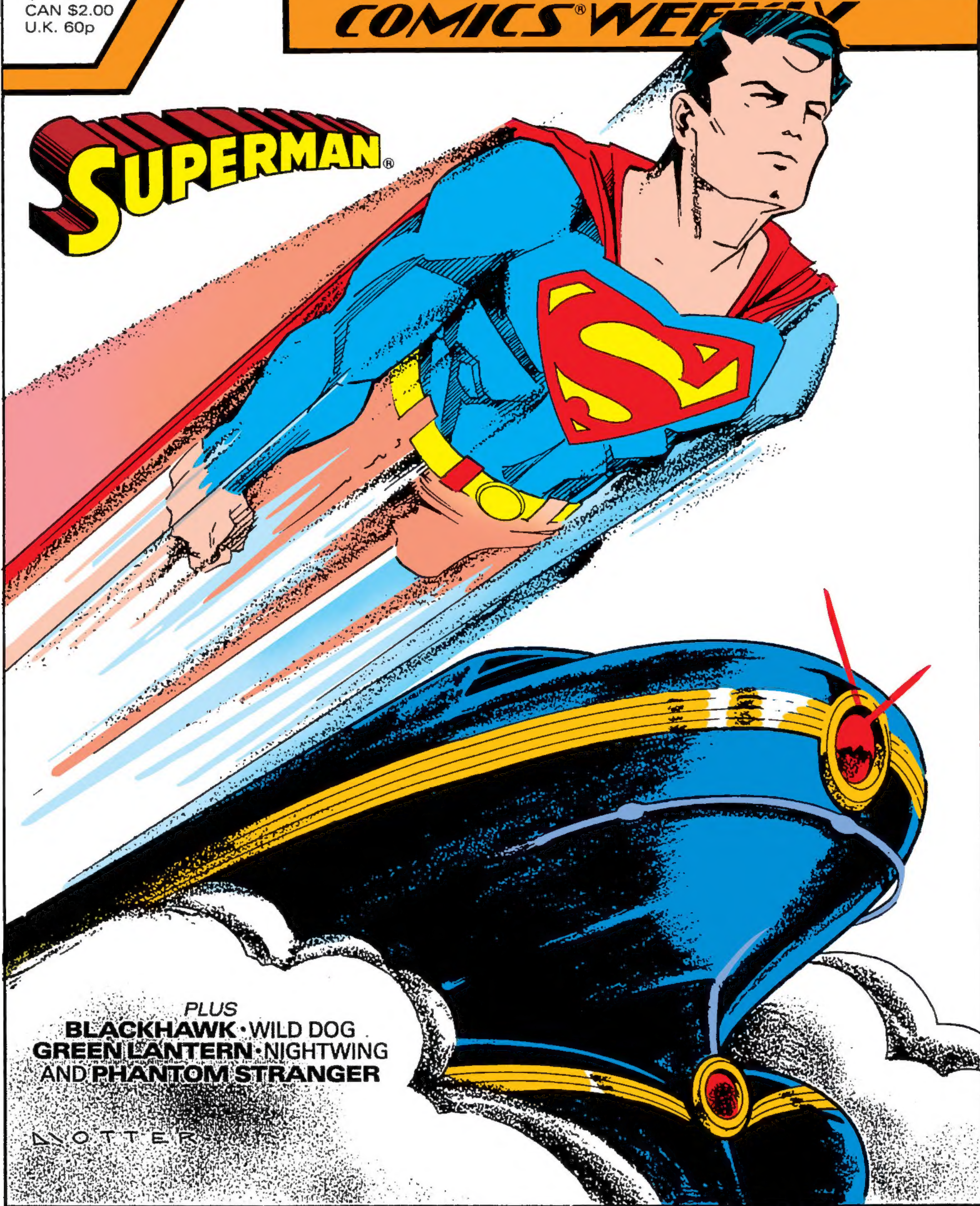
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